

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

SATURDAY, 9th MARCH, 1935.

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 9th March, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CLOSING DOWN OF COTTAGE MATCH FACTORIES SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF THE EXCISE DUTY.

761. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the answer given by Government to starred question No. 261 on the 14th February, 1935, will Government please state how many factories where matches were being made as a cottage industry have been closed down since the imposition of excise duty on matches?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: As explained in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 261 in this Session, the production of matches in India was tremendously increased in anticipation of the levy of the excise, with the result that for some months, after the imposition of the duty and until the accumulated stocks were worked off, production practically ceased both in large scale factories and in cottage establishments. The number of cottage establishments which ceased working was, according to the information at present available, 132, but 39 of these have since re-opened and 23 new factories have been opened.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the number of cottage factories that have ceased to produce matches?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: I was explaining to the Honourable Member that practically all the match factories in India closed in April last. They ceased working, and only recently we have been finding out which of them are going to continue, and, as I say, 39 of these have since re-opened and 23 new factories have been opened. I might mention that one of the effects of the excise is to make very small scale working unprofitable and the tendency has been for small scale factories with machinery to be started, with a larger number in one establishment. It does not pay now to run a sort of one man factory.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Am I to understand that under this excise, cottage factories cannot work?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: What I was pointing out was that the excise does not make it remunerative for a very small cottage factory to work. I would also point out that the Tariff Board, which went very carefully

into this question, recommended that Government should not regard production of matches in cottages as a thing to be encouraged on grounds of public health and safety. There had been some very nasty accidents because of the careless handling of the explosive material necessary and Government accepted that view.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the excessive rise in the price of matches, will Government consider the advisability of restricting the price fixed on a box of matches?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: No, Sir, Government do not consider that the present circumstances justify such a degree of interference with ordinary trade.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the amount of unemployment that has been caused by the stoppage of these cottage factories?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: I pointed out just now to my friend that although the number of factories may have declined, I have reason to think that the actual degree of employment in the production of matches has not declined.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that in these cottage industries only safety matches are produced,

Mr. A. J. Raisman: Sir, a safety match is one which can only be ignited by striking against a box, but the material used in its production is by no means safe.

EFFECT OF THE EXCISE DUTY ON MATCHES.

762. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government please state the effect of the excise duty on matches on:

- (i) the production of matches in India; and
- (ii) the import of matches from foreign countries, as compared with the previous year?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: (i) Exact statistics are not available. On the basis of certain figures, compiled by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the average monthly production in 1933-34 has been estimated at approximately two million gross of boxes. The latest returns of excise duty show a collection of 23 lakhs a month, which indicates that the present rate of production of matches is not lower, and is probably higher, than two million gross boxes a month.

(ii) Imports of matches into India, during the nine months, April to December, 1934, were 30.575 gross of boxes as against 54.875 gross in the corresponding period of 1933. These imports represent considerably less than one per cent of the estimated production of matches in India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if mechanical lighters are being imported into India?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise.

Mr. H. P. Mody: Will the Honourable Member tell me what arrangement the Government of India made with the Indian States with regard to the excise duty. I am asking that in order to lead up to my next question.

Mr. A. J. Raisman: The Government of India have invited the Indian States to levy exactly similar excise duty on matches produced in their territory and the vast majority of the States have come into a pooling arrangement in which the duty will be distributed on the basis of population.

Mr. H. P. Mody: Is it not a fact that various exemptions and concessions given by one Indian State with regard to the excise duty are affecting the production of matches in British Indian territory adjoining that State?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: There has been a difficult position in the first few months, because it was not possible for the excise scheme to start off on exactly the same date in all the Indian States and in British India, and there is no doubt that during the period in which the excise was in force in British India but was not in force in certain match producing States, the latter had an advantage, but I am not aware of any permanent exemptions or concessions which give match producers in the States an advantage as against British India. If the Honourable Member will give me concrete information on that subject, I shall be glad to look into it.

Mr. H. P. Mody: Are the Government of India aware that in the Hyderabad State certain exemptions have been given to small manufacturers?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: If the Honourable Member refers to exemptions in the nature of rebates of excise other than those given to cottage industries in India, I should be glad if he will give me concrete information, because it seems to me that it might have to be taken up with the Durbar.

Mr. H. P. Mody: I will.

MAGAZINES SUPPLIED TO STATE PRISONERS.

763. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) With reference to the supplementary questions and answers to starred question No. 185 asked on the 13th February, 1935, will Government please state whether the magazines, etc., referred to therein have since been included in the list of approved books supplied to State Prisoners?

(b) Will Government please lay on the table a list of periodicals, monthlies, weeklies or dailies, ordinarily supplied to State Prisoners?

(c) Will Government please state which body or committee, or which official, approves the list of periodicals that are to be supplied to such prisoners and whether any non-officials are associated with such committee? If not, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of including some non-officials, especially the non-official visitors to jails, in the respective provinces to sit on the body or committee which approves such periodicals?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I have taken up with the Government of Bengal the question of including the periodicals mentioned in part (e) of Mr. Giri's question No. 185. The Bengal Government are taking steps to add the *Uttara* and *Bharata Barsha* to the list, and the question of the inclusion of the remaining three periodicals is under their consideration.

(b) I lay a list on the table.

(c) As mentioned by me on a previous occasion, the Government of Bengal compile the list. No committee exists for the purpose nor do Government consider one necessary.

List of Newspapers, Periodicals and Magazines supplied to State Prisoners.

Newspapers.

1. Statesman.
2. Star of India.
3. Pioneer.
4. Leader of Allahabad.
5. Statesman (overseas weekly edition).
6. The Illustrated Weekly of India.
7. Panchayet of Dacca.
8. Mymensingh Samachar.
9. Hindu Ranjika of Rajshahi.
10. Kshipur Nivasi of Barisal.
11. Sisir (weekly edition).
12. Al-Aman of Delhi (Urdu).
13. Aftab (Urdu).
14. Haq (Urdu).
15. Hansa of Benares (Hindi).
16. Jagaran of Benares.
17. Sudha of Lucknow (Hindi).
18. Madhuri (Hindi).
19. Sudha (Hindi).
20. Utkal Deepika.
21. Hindu Illustrated Weekly.
22. Hitavadi (Bengali).
23. Midnapur Hitaishi (Bengali).
24. Whip.
25. Sanjivani.

Magazines and periodicals.

1. Indian Review.
2. Calcutta Review.
3. Hindustan Review.
4. Indian Historical Quarterly.
5. (Indian) Medical Gazette.

Magazines and periodicals—contd.

6. Homeopathic Director.
7. Economic Journal.
8. Udbodhan.
9. Krishak.
10. Utsava.
11. Matri Mandir.
12. Bhandar.
13. Krishi Sampad.
14. Prabuddha Bharat.
15. Sangit Vignan Prabeshika.
16. Saurabh.
17. Pushpa Patra.
18. Galpa Lahari.
19. Archana.
20. Bangabhumii.
21. Banga Lakshmi.
22. Janmabhumii.
23. Pancha Pushpa.
24. Viswa Bharati.
25. Richitra.
26. (Indian) Medical Journal.
27. Abahan.
28. Udayan.
29. Industry (English).
30. Sahakar (Oriya).
31. Review of India (English).
32. Krishi Lakshmi.
33. Chikitsa Prakas (Bengali).
34. Maspaila.
35. Calcutta Weekly Notes.
36. Chhota Galpa.
37. Film Land.
38. Capital.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the harm in supplying State Prisoners with whatever periodicals they like to have?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said—"I lay on the table a list of the periodicals which are ordinarily supplied to the prisoners". The prisoners have not a complete choice as to what periodicals they may read. As I made it clear, Government compile a list of the periodicals considered suitable.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the *Modern Review* included in the list?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, I do not think so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the *Indian Review* published by Messrs. Natesan included in the list?

Mr. H. P. Mody: What other "Reviews" are included?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member should see the list.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that several of the State detenus applied for having the *Modern Review*?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not know.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do Government permit any unsuitable "Reviews" to be printed in this country at all? The Honourable the Home Member said that he does not permit certain reviews or papers, because they are unsuitable. My question is: do Government permit any unsuitable reviews or papers that are considered unsuitable to be printed at all in this country, and, if they do not, whether any such review as we have referred to can be made available to the prisoners?

Mr. H. P. Mody: And if not, why not? (Laughter.)

An Honourable Member: Is the *Modern Review* considered to be a seditious paper?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of including the *Modern Review* now?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The matter is for decision by the Government of Bengal.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In part (c) of my question, I asked:

"Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of including some non-officials, especially the non-official visitors to jails, in the respective provinces to sit on the body or committee which approves such periodicals?"

Are Government prepared to consult them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said that "there is no committee that exists for this purpose, nor do Government consider it to be necessary."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the principles on which Government decide what magazines or reviews are suitable for State Prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The general criterion is to exclude any paper which encourages or supports subversive or unlawful activities or class strife or the subversion of the existing economic order by methods of violence. That is the general criterion. There are other criteria as well.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the fact that the Press Act is functioning in this country, do Government admit that such papers are being allowed to be published?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Anyhow, if they are, they are excluded.

Seth Govind Das: Is the *Modern Review* considered such a paper?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have never read it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Ahdur Rahim): Next question.

COTTAGE MATCH INDUSTRIES IN INDIA.

764. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** With reference to the supplementary questions and answers to starred question No. 261, asked on the 14th February, 1985, will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the quantity of matches produced as cottage industries in India during 1982, 1983 and 1984;
- (ii) the amount of excise duty collected on such cottage matches ever since the duty was first introduced; and
- (iii) how many such cottage factories have been closed down since the imposition of the excise duty and where?

Mr. A. J. Rātsman: The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DEVELOPMENT OF AIR SERVICES IN INDIA.

765. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the delegates of the British Post Office and the Air Ministry have discussed with the Government of India plans for further development of air services in India? If so, have any decisions been reached?

(b) In the case of any decisions having been reached, will Government please place the same on the table of this House?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The Government of India held discussions recently with delegate, from the British Post Office and the Air Ministry regarding India's participation in the proposed scheme to increase the frequency and speed of Empire Air Mail Services. The discussions were intended to clear the ground and to avoid lengthy correspondence. No decisions were reached, and the proposals are still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

PILOTS AND AIRMEN IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

766. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) What is the total number of pilots and airmen in the service of the Government of India in the Posts and Telegraphs Department? How many of them are Indians?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Government do not operate any Air Services and, therefore, do not employ any pilots. The agreements with the three companies operating air mail services in India, *vis.*, Indian Trans-Continental Airways, Ltd., Tata Sons, Ltd., and Indian National Airways, Ltd., provide that these companies should employ the largest percentage of Indian personnel, reasonably possible, as soon as suitably qualified Indians are available. A statement giving the number of Indian pilots and engineers employed at present by the three companies mentioned is laid on the table.

(b) As I have stated above, Government do not employ pilots; but with the development of air services in India, a greater number of qualified pilots will naturally be in demand by the operating companies. In regard to facilities for training, Government administer a Fund, called the Petrol Tax Fund, derived from the proceeds of the additional tax on petrol used for aviation purposes, which is utilised *inter alia* for the grant of scholarships and financial assistance to Indians for advanced training in aviation. Facilities for training are also provided by the flying clubs in India, which are subsidised by Government. In addition, Indian National Airways, Ltd., have established a flying school in Rangoon.

Pilots	2
Ground Engineers, Fitters, Carpenters and trained Ground Engineers	24
Aerodrome Officer	1
Total	<u>27</u>

CLOSING OF THE GATES AT LEVEL CROSSINGS NEAR THE PATNA JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION.

767. ***Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that the closing of the gates at the level crossings on both sides of the Patna Junction Railway station, specially on the western side, for long periods for shunting and other purposes has been causing great inconvenience to traffic?

(b) Are Government aware that not infrequently doctors on urgent calls in serious cases are held up for a pretty long time by the closing of the gates and that not infrequently passengers hurrying to catch trains are deprived of the opportunity because of the obstruction thus caused?

(c) Are Government aware that Patna Junction is an important Railway Station and that heavy traffic passes over the western railway crossing because of the proximity of the New Capital area and the gradual development and extension of the town on the southern side of the crossing?

(d) Is it not a fact that because of this heavy traffic and the increasing inconvenience caused to the people, the Railway authorities were at one time seriously considering the advisability and urgency of having an overbridge or a sub-way and the extension of the shunting limit to more convenient sides?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what stage the proposal has reached and do they propose to take steps to expedite the matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for the information required from the Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

MOLASSES THROWN OUT BY THE SUGAR MILLS.

768. ***Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that the non-utilisation of the annually increasing quantities of molasses thrown out by the sugar mills in the various provinces are proving injurious to the health of the people in the locality of the mills and may lead to epidemics in the areas concerned?

(b) Are Government aware that such non-utilisation of molasses is also a great economic waste, and that it could be easily prevented by some suitable scheme of utilising this bye-product, such as, its conversion into some sort of alcohol?

(c) Have Government in view any such scheme to be started in the near future? If not, do they propose to examine the matter?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) Government have received no complaints.

(b) and (c) The question of the disposal of molasses is receiving the attention of Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it true that some foreign companies are stipulating to take these molasses from the Government just now?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The question whether an outlet for the exportable surplus can be found in countries outside India is being considered.

NON-OBSERVANCE OF FIXED TIMINGS ON THE KISHUNGUNJ-SILIGURI BRANCH OF THE DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY.

769. ***Maulvi Badi-uz-Zaman:** (a) Are Government aware that the employees of the Kishungunj-Siliguri branch of the D. H. R. generally do not observe and have no regard for the timings fixed by the authority for the arrival and departure of the trains, and the trains are generally late both in arrival and departure, specially at intermediate stations?

(b) Are Government aware that the trains are very often detained at some particular station much longer than the time fixed for their stoppage?

(c) Is it not a fact that the number of carriages in the trains of the D. H. R. are quite inadequate to accommodate all the passengers?

(d) Do Government propose to ask the Railway authority concerned to look to the matters mentioned above?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). Government have no information.

(d) I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Managing Agents of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway for such action as they consider necessary in regard to parts (a) and (b) and for a report in regard to part (c).

MUSLIM STENOGRAPHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.

770. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government please state the number of stenographers in each Department of the Government of India Secretariat, separately, and how many of them are Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that the percentage of Muslims in the stenographers service is far short of their proportion? If so, what special steps do Government propose to take to make up this deficiency? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have issued a letter to all Secretaries of the Government of India regarding the recruitment of stenographers?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether communal representation will be considered only in the case of outside recruitment and neglected in the case of departmental candidates? If so, are Government aware that by doing so the Muslims will not get their due share in the appointment of stenographers?

(e) Do Government propose to fix communal representation for departmental stenographers also, as is laid for outsiders in the Government of India, Home Department Resolution of July, 1934? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Oaik: (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table of the House in reply to starred question No. 1005 on the 31st August, 1934.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to part (b) of starred question No. 365 on the 6th August, 1934.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). The whole question of the future recruitment of stenographers is under consideration and, in so far as direct recruitment to these posts is concerned the claims of Muslims, as of other minority communities, will not be overlooked. The rules about communal representation do not apply to departmental promotions, which are made solely on merit, as stated in the Resolution to which the Honourable Member refers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if these stenographers are recruited through the Public Service Commission?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes.

EXAMINATION FOR ENTRY INTO THE KING'S COMMISSIONED RANKS OF THE ARMY, THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AND THE ROYAL INDIAN MARINE.

771 **Munshi Iswar Saran:** (a) Will Government please state if a Press Communiqué was issued by the Army Department of the Government of India, from Simla, on the 25th July, 1931, giving particulars about the examination for entry to "the King's Commissioned ranks of the Army, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Indian Marine" to be held in Delhi, on the 17th December and subsequent days?

(b) Is it a fact that certain candidates on the strength of the said Government Communiqué appeared at the examination held in Delhi for entry to "the King's Commissioned ranks of the Army, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Indian Marine"?

(c) Is it a fact that before the publication of the results of the said examinations, the parents or guardians of the candidates were circularised to keep themselves in readiness and to arrange for sufficient funds for sending the successful candidates to England at short notice?

(d) How many Indian candidates were sent to England after passing the said examinations for training, giving the numbers separately for each of the three examinations?

(e) Are they holding Kings' Commissions?

(f) Are they getting the same pay as British officers *minus* the over-seas allowance, and is their status the same as that of British entrants of the same year?

(g) Is it a fact that another Government Communiqué was issued on 8th July, 1932, announcing certain changes in the military policy of Government?

(h) Were these changes made applicable even to those Indians who had appeared at the examinations in 1931 on the strength of the former Communiqué long before the declaration of the new policy?

(i) Will the said successful candidates be junior to British Officers who will enter the said services in subsequent years?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Yes, except that the date of the examination was the 17th November and not the 17th December, 1931.

(b) Yes

(c) Yes, in the case of candidates for the Air Force examination.

(d) Thirteen for the Indian Army and six for the Indian Air Force. No candidate for the Marine was successful.

(e) Yes.

(f) Those who entered the Indian Army receive the same pay and allowances and have the same status as the British officers who were trained at Woolwich or Sandhurst with them. Those who entered the Indian Air Force receive the rates of pay sanctioned for that force, which are practically identical with the rates of pay of the Royal Air Force officers serving in England, but, in addition, they have also been given a special personal allowance to bring their pay more into line with that of the Royal Air Force officers serving in India, in consideration of the fact that the Indian Air Force rates had not been published before they proceeded to England for training. There are no British officers in the Indian Air Force.

(g) Yes.

(h) They were only applied to those who entered the newly formed Indian Air Force through the 1931 examination, and as I have just explained, a concession has been made in the matter of their pay.

(i) No.

OFFICIAL NATIONAL FLAG

772. ***Munshi Iswar Saran:** Are Government prepared to take immediately such necessary action as may enable India to have a distinctive official national flag?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I would refer my Honourable friend to the speech made in the Council of State by Sir Herbert Emerson on September 31, 1931, on a Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Ranga-swamy Aiyangar. In that speech Sir Herbert Emerson, while expressing the sympathy of Government with the suggestion that India should have, as other Dominions have, a distinctive flag under the British flag, explained that Government felt that this proposal could best be considered when the Federation had been established, so that the responsible government could decide the question of the most suitable flag for India not merely for British India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that the position of the Government today also, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes.

MEMBERS OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES IN THE COMBATANT RANKS OF THE ARMY AND IN THE POLICE FORCE

773. ***Munshi Iswar Saran:** Will Government please state the number of the Members of the depressed classes (i) in the combatant ranks of the Army and (ii) in the police force in the territories directly under the control of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DEPRESSED CLASS STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOLS
AND UNIVERSITY OF DELHI.**

774. ***Munshi Iswar Saran:** Will Government please state the number of scholarships awarded to students belonging to the depressed classes in the years 1930 to 1935 (i) in the Delhi University and (ii) in the High Schools of Delhi?

Mr. Ram Chandra: A statement showing the number of scholarships awarded to students belonging to the depressed classes in the high schools of Delhi is placed on the table. Information regarding the number of scholarships awarded to students in Delhi University is not available as the University does not keep a record of the religion or caste of a student or a scholar.

Statement regarding the number of Scholarships awarded to Students belonging to the Depressed Classes in the High Schools of Delhi.

1930-31	..	...	...	...	19
1931-32	...	...	...	...	9
1932-33	...	...	...	..	9
1933-34	...	...	...	...	6
1934-35	...	...	.	...	6

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES IN THE DELHI
MUNICIPALITY.**

775. ***Munshi Iswar Saran:** Are there any representatives of the depressed classes in the Delhi Municipality? If so, what is their number?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

Munshi Iswar Saran: Will Government take necessary action for the representation of the depressed classes on the Municipal Board of Delhi?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The door of election is open to members of the depressed classes.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if there is representation on the Delhi Municipality also by communal and class representation?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Sir, the Delhi Municipality is divided into twelve wards and a Hindu and a Muhammadan Member is returned from each ward.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are they returned by a joint electorate or a separate electorate?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Hindus may vote for Hindus and Mussalmans for Mussalmans.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is it joint or separate?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I do not know . . .

Mr. M. S. Arney: My friend has yet to learn?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are the electorates divided into Hindus and Muhammadans or into Muslims and non-Muslims?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I have not got the actual regulations before me, but, from the papers I have in my possession, it is clear that Hindus may vote for Hindus and Muslims for Muslims.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Have the Christians and the Parsees no right of votes?

Mr. Ram Chandra: They may vote for members of either community.

Haji Seth Abdoola Haroon: Have Government got the right to nominate members to the Board?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Yes. Government have not nominated any member of the depressed classes on this occasion, but I may point out that in the last Municipal Committee there were two elected members of the depressed classes. They got in through the door of election.

Munshi Iswar Saran: In view of the fact that there is no member of the depressed classes on the Board of the Municipality of Delhi, will Government consider the advisability of nominating a member of the depressed classes when a suitable opportunity occurs?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The suggestion will be brought to the notice of the Local Administration.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: On what electoral rolls Parsees and Christians are shown in Delhi?

Mr. H. P. Mody: Depressed classes. (Laughter.)

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think I may answer that question on behalf of Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The question is not put to the Honourable Member.

STEPS TAKEN TO SPREAD EDUCATION AMONG THE DEPRESSED CLASSES.

776. ***Munshi Iswar Saran:** What steps have the Government of India taken to spread education among the depressed classes in the territories directly under their control?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I lay a statement on the table.

Statement regarding steps taken by Government to spread Education among the Depressed Classes in the centrally administered areas.

Government are unable to give a complete list of the steps taken to spread education among depressed classes in centrally administered areas, but the following lines of action have been taken :

Delhi.

(a) Schools are not retained on the list of recognised and aided schools if the management refuse admission to depressed class students.

(b) 32 Government scholarships are awarded to students belonging to the depressed classes.

(c) Preference is given to depressed class students in respect to admission and award of Government stipends in the Government Normal Schools, Najafgarh, and the Government Training School for Women, Delhi.

(d) Delhi University have exempted candidates of depressed classes from the payment of examination fees until the examination of 1940.

Ajmer-Merwara.

(a) 15 scholarships have been reserved in rural schools for award to depressed class children

(b) Preference is given to students of depressed classes in the matter of admission to the Normal School, Ajmer and the Central Training Class attached to it.

GIRLS BELONGING TO THE DEPRESSED CLASSES IN INSTITUTIONS OF DELHI.

777. ***Munshi Iswar Saran:** What is the number of girls belonging to the depressed classes in Government or Government-aided institutions of Delhi?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The number of girls belonging to the depressed classes in Government or Government-aided institutions of Delhi was 509 on the 31st March, 1934.

Munshi Iswar Saran: How many of them were in the primary section and how many in the secondary section?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I must ask for notice of that question.

Munshi Iswar Saran: Is there any ban on the depressed class girls in regard to their entry into Government schools?

Mr. Ram Chandra: There is no ban whatever.

Munshi Iswar Saran: Is their number increasing or decreasing?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I must again ask for notice.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is any special encouragement given to the depressed classes?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I think the answer will be found in the statement which I have laid on the table in answer to Mr. Iswar Saran's preceding question.

Munshi Iswar Saran: Have you discussed the question of giving special encouragement to the girls of the depressed classes in that statement?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I have got the statement before me here. There it is said:

"Schools are not retained on the list of recognised and aided schools if the management refuse admission to depressed class students."

That is one of the things that I find in the statement.

Munshi Iswar Saran: Is it the only encouragement that Government give to the girls of the depressed classes?

Mr. Ram Chandra: There are a certain number of Government scholarships also which are awarded to students belonging to depressed classes.

Munshi Iswar Saran: Will you kindly tell us their number?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Their number is 32 according to this statement, but I am not sure how many of them are for girls and how many for boys.

DIVISIONS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORT.

778. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

- (i) whether any correspondence has passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State in respect of the attitude of the Government in the voting in the divisions on the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report in the Legislative Assembly;
 - (ii) whether it is a fact that the Secretary of State directed the Government of India to decide this question themselves; and
 - (iii) the reasons why Government decided to take part in the voting?
- (b) Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:
- (i) whether the Government of India have communicated to the Secretary of State the results of the voting in the Legislative Assembly on the motions in respect of the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report;
 - (ii) in what form they have communicated the same;
 - (iii) whether they have heard from the Secretary of State in answer to the communication; and
 - (iv) whether Government will place the entire correspondence on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) (i) and (ii). No.

(iii) Government Members have right of vote, which right they thought fit to exercise.

(b) (i) and (ii). The Government of India informed the Secretary of State of the substance of the amendments voted on and the number of Members who voted for and against each amendment.

(iii) No.

(iv) Government consider it is not in public interest to lay on the table the confidential correspondence which is asked to be laid on the table.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the fact that, to the best of my knowledge, practically all the Local Governments did not vote in their Legislative Councils on the motions or amendments in connection with the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report, may I know the reasons why the Government of India decided to take part in the voting?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Members in Local Councils having the right of vote, thought fit not to exercise it, but Members here exercised the right which they have under the Statute.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if one of the reasons why the Government decided to take part in the voting was that they had felt that, if they did not so vote, this House was bound to pass the Congress Resolution?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: My friend can draw such inference as he chooses. But if any Member who exercised his right and thought fit to exercise that right, because the Resolution was objectionable, he must have done so.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Did the official Members adopt that course individually or was it done on behalf of the Government?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am not prepared to disclose that until I know what my friend did. Did he exercise his right individually?

Mr. M. S. Aney: I have asked my Honourable friend a question, and I want its answer?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I was not present at any meeting at which consultation was held.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Was any whip issued by the Government in this House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: What was the number of votes contributed by Government in the division on the motions?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That will be available from the proceedings of the House which have been published.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what was the "substance of the amendments" which were carried in the House, which was communicated by the Government of India to the Secretary of State?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I meant by substance the exact language of the amendments

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that no word was put in there by the Government, which was not already in the amendments?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That was my reply, as regards the language of the amendments.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Government had made up their mind from the very beginning to vote on that question in a particular way or did they make up their mind after hearing the debate in the House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am not aware as to at what exact hour and exact date each particular Member thought he was going to vote in a particular way.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know, therefore, that Government Members voted each according to his own conscience and according to his own judgment, or whether they voted as a party?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Government Members vote according to their conscience.

Seth Govind Das: Do the Government Members ever vote on the Congress side?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Did the Local Governments take the advice of the Government of India when they decided not to take part in the voting in their respective Provincial Councils?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not follow the Honourable Member.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Did the Government of India advise the Local Governments to restrict the voting in their respective Councils only to non-official elements in the House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I would like to have your ruling, Sir, as to whether this supplementary question arises out of this question?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It does not arise.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: The point is this

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has given its ruling.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government state why they will not place the entire correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Government of India on the table of the House, especially in view of the Honourable the Law Member's statement that not one word was put in in the "substance of the amendments" which was not already there?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already said that he did not consider it desirable to do so in the public interest.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Were the Government of India asked by the Secretary of State to ascertain non-official opinion in the matter of the proposals contained in the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That does not arise. If my Honourable friend would put down a separate question, I shall answer.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Were the Members of the Government of India free to vote against the proposal of the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That depended on their individual conscience which they always exercise most conscientiously.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they ever have a conscience?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

DEBTS INCURRED BY KING IBN SAUD FOR PURCHASE OF ARMS.

779. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government please state whether it is true that a share of the debts incurred by King Ibn Saud for purchase of arms was paid by the Government of India?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Did Government see in the *Hindustan Times* a statement to that effect?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I did not see actually the thing to which the Honourable Member refers.

MANUFACTURE AND FREE DISTRIBUTION OF QUININE.

780. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Dr. P. N. Banerjea): Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of:

- (a) taking all necessary steps to promote the manufacture of quinine in India at cheap cost, and
- (b) the distribution of quinine to the masses free of charge or at a nominal price?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) As the Honourable Member is aware this will be a matter for the provinces under the new Constitution

(b) This is already a provincial matter as Public Health is a transferred subject. I may add that the Government of India have certain surplus stocks of quinine and are prepared to consider proposals from Local Governments for its sale on reasonable terms.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the reason for the retention of this surplus stock of quinine with the Government of India while all over India there is such a great demand for quinine?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The Government of India have to retain certain stock in order to deal with emergent situations.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Do the Government of India keep quinine for mercantile purposes or for the purpose of distributing to malarial patients?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The stock is kept for sale to Local Governments for the treatment of patients suffering from malaria.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is quinine supplied in sufficient quantities to Local Governments to be distributed to malarial affected population of India?

Mr. Ram Chandra: It all depends upon the demand received from Local Governments. No demand has ever been refused.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is it because that there has been no malaria and that is why there has been no demand for quinine?

Mr. Ram Chandra: There has been a certain amount of demand. But the demand must depend upon the financial situation of the provinces. We asked the Local Governments in 1932 whether they would be prepared to spend larger sums of money to popularise the sale of quinine which was in Government stock, but their replies were generally disappointing.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: How do you mean to popularise quinine by keeping their price high?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The price of quinine is Rs 18 per pound, which does not compare unfavourably with the price of quinine in the open market

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: What would be the ordinary price if there was no middleman's profit?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The price of imported quinine in September, 1934, was Rs. 23 per pound which shows that the Government price is very favourable.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is it not that the price of quinine would come to Rs. 12 per pound and that the Government of India want to sell it at a profit of more than 83 per cent, and that is why the stocks have gone up while the malarial affected patients are suffering all over the country?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The average cost of manufacture of quinine comes to roughly Rs. 15 per pound.

Mr. B. Das: At what price did the Government of India sell their surplus quinine to the Kina bureau? Was it not at Rs. 12 per pound?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I do not know of any sales to the Kina bureau.

Mr. B. Dass: Did not the representatives of the Kina Bureau come to India last year to negotiate the sale of the surplus stock of quinine?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I understand that certain negotiations are still going on.

Mr. B. Das: So far there has been no sale of quinine?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Government sold a certain amount of quinine on a tender system. The minimum price fixed at that time was Rs. 15-8-0 per pound. That was in 1933.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When the cost price is said to be Rs. 15 per pound, why do Government insist on selling it at Rs. 18 per pound?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The real reason is this. If Government sold it at very much less than what they are doing now, there is every danger that quinine might get into the hands of wholesale dealers who would not be willing to pass on the profit to the consumer. They will make all the profit themselves and will pass on the article to the consumer only at the rate which prevails in the open market.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government wish to make a profit at the expense of these unhealthy people in the country who are crying out for cheaper quinine?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is argument.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the quantity of quinine produced locally?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Next question.

NON-WITHDRAWAL OF BAN ON CERTAIN CONGRESS AND ALLIED ASSOCIATIONS.

781. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and the names of Congress and allied associations against whom the ban imposed by Government has not yet been withdrawn;
- (b) the reasons why the ban has not yet been withdrawn; and
- (c) whether Government propose to withdraw the ban, and if so, when?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by me on the 14th February, to Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena's questions Nos. 272 and 273 on the same subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know, with regard to the Hindustani Seva Dal, what is the information in the possession of the Honourable the Home Member that certain branches of this organisation are teaching their members rifle practice? In what province is it done, and what is the information on which the Honourable Member relies?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I said in at least one instance,—I cannot remember which province that was in, I think it was in the United Provinces—the use of the rifle was taught.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Was any member of the Hindustani Seva Dal prosecuted under the Arms Act?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am not aware of that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable Member make enquiries and find out why the Local Governments consider the branches of the Hindustani Seva Dal revolutionary in their provinces, revolutionary in the sense that they are advocating or practising violent methods?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have no intention of making any further enquiries.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why has he no intention? In view of the persistent demand from this side of the House that the Hindustani Seva Dal is a Congress organisation and that the ban on the same ought to have been removed long ago, why should not the Honourable Member make enquiries?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have already received information which satisfies me that it is not purely a Congress organisation.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: What happened to the rifles of the Hindustani Seva Dal? Did the police take hold of them?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: As part (a) of question No. 782 was already very fully answered by the Honourable the Home Member, I wish to put today only parts (b) and (c) of that question.

RELEASE OF PERSONS CONVICTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

782. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

[(a) the number of prisoners convicted and sentenced in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement, who are still in prison;]

(b) the reasons why they have not yet been released; and

(c) whether Government propose to release them, and if so, when?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (b) and (c). As I have already explained in answer to a supplementary question by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, the decision regarding releases rests with Local Governments who examine these cases from time to time in accordance with the policy of premature release referred to in the Government of India's communiqué of the 6th June, 1934.

IMPORT OF SAFETY MATCH BOXES INTO INDIA.

783. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that nearly 29,000 gross of safety match boxes were imported into India from April 1934 to November 1934?

(b) Are not safety matches of like quality manufactured in India? If they are manufactured, how is it that there are still large quantities being imported?

(c) Are Government aware that the excise duty on matches is adversely affecting the match industry in India?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of taking effective steps to encourage the entire production locally of matches required for use in India?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I am unable to express an opinion as to the quality of matches manufactured in India as compared with the quality of those imported but, as the Honourable Member has just been informed, imports now represent considerably less than one per cent. of the estimated Indian production.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of the comparatively negligible quantity of imports the question of taking any further steps beyond the tariff protection already afforded does not arise.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE COTTAGE MATCH INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

784. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What steps have Government taken to encourage the cottage match industry in India?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 4 of the Commerce Department Resolution No. 235-T (24) published in the Gazette of India of 1st September, 1928, on the Report of the Tariff Board regarding the grant of protection to the Match Industry. As stated there the Government of India accepted the Board's finding that the manufacture of matches is not a fit industry for development on cottage lines. I would point out, however, that in the matter of excise duty a rebate is allowed to factories whose daily output does not exceed 100 gross boxes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: May I know how many cottage factories have taken advantage of that rebate?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: Every cottage factory is entitled to the rebate, and I have no doubt they automatically take advantage of it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many have taken advantage?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: As many as exist.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: What is their number?

Mr. A. J. Raisman: I have already answered a question on that subject this morning.

AMOUNT SPENT IN MAKING NEW SIDINGS AND YARDS FOR THE ARMY AND NEW ROLLING STOCK IN THE SHAPE OF AEROPLANE WAGONS.

785. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount spent in making new sidings and yards for the army and new rolling stock in the shape of aeroplane wagons so far and for the last five years each?

(b) How much rolling stock have the Army Department to carry troops and how many wagons have they for troop train purposes alone?

(c) How much are the Army Department paying for it?

(d) If no payment is made, are concessions allowed even without payment?

(e) Do Government propose to stop the concessions?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government regret that the information regarding the amount spent year by year on new sidings and yards for the army is not readily available.

There are four aeroplane cars which are reserved for the exclusive use of the Army Department. They were built in 1925 at a total cost of Rs. 1,10,586.

(b) Excluding the saloons reserved for the use of high military officials the following stock is reserved for the exclusive use of the Army Department:

Military Cars	62
Ambulance vehicles	9
Military Kitchen cars	11
Petrol Tank Wagons	10
Military Canteens	2
Military First class carriages	4

(c) In addition to haulage, the Army Department pay interest, maintenance and depreciation charges at $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, per annum on the capital cost of the vehicles reserved for the exclusive use of the Army Department. The amount that is paid annually by that Department is Rs. 2½ lakhs approximately.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Arising out of the answer to (b), may I know how many saloons are maintained and what is the number of military officers who use these saloons?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If my Honourable friend desires, I shall obtain the information and communicate it to him.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Arising out of the answer to (c), who pays the capital cost of these saloons and other vehicles?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think the capital cost is charged to railways. The Army Department pays interest, maintenance and depreciation.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is this account debited only to the accounts of the strategic railways or do they receive a cheque directly from the Army Department?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I must have notice of that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are these paid for by the military authorities?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The military authorities pay interest, maintenance and depreciation at $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: And the capital investment is made by the railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the amount?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I should like to have notice of that question. The total charge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs amounts to $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the capital cost, which can easily be calculated.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: To which account is the cost of sidings and yards for the army debited?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That information is not readily available. It will take some time, because the accounts are not kept separate.

SELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCILS ON RAILWAYS.

786. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how members are selected to the advisory councils on Railways?

(b) Was any one selected to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Advisory Committee on behalf of ryots of the Madras Presidency?

(c) How was the selection made?

(d) Was it by the Recommendation of the Chief Minister, Madras

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable Mr. (now Sir John) Woodhead to parts (2) and (8) of the Honourable Babu Jagdish Chandra Banerjee's question No. 20 in the Council of State on the 11th February, 1931.

(b) The Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, advised the Government of Madras on the 30th May, 1933, that there was a vacancy for one additional member on the Local Advisory Committee and that he had no objection to the appointment of a non-official to represent agricultural interests.

(c) and (d). The selection was to have been made by the Government of Madras. I am unable to say how it was actually made.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Is it reasonable to refer to an answer given years ago in another place?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The answer was given in 1931.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Perhaps the Honourable Member will give a substance of that answer.

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have the answer here which is two pages long, but I can say that the general lines on which these committees should be constituted were, two Local Government members nominated by the Local Governments, three representatives of the Legislative Council, one member from the local Municipality or Corporation of the railway headquarters, five members representing industries, commerce and trade.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Will this two page answer be published in the Assembly proceedings?

Mr. P. R. Rau: It is already there in the Council of State debates, and it is easy, if the Honourable Member is interested to get a copy of those debates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that none of these members happen to be representative of agricultural interests, will the Government of India be prepared to consider the advisability of reserving some places on these Advisory Councils for representatives of agricultural interests?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have already answered that question so far as the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway is concerned. One member has been, so far as I know, nominated by the Madras Government to represent agricultural interests.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Central Advisory Council is going to be re-formed and re-elected, and, if so, when?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think a motion will be made by the Honourable the Railway Member next week with regard to the election of the Central Advisory Council.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask if Government are prepared to consider the advisability of giving some places on these Advisory Councils for the representation of railway passengers' associations also?

Mr. P. R. Rau: In order to prevent these committees being too large and unwieldy, it is necessary to have a maximum, and the question of different interests to be represented was carefully considered when they were first constituted on the recommendation of the Ackworth Committee. They have not been reconsidered since then.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is there any provision for the representation of third class passengers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Not directly.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India propose to devise some method by which third class passengers may be represented?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: May I ask whether they can be represented by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether there is any objection to my representing third class passengers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I do not see any.

ECONOMIC QUESTION OF INDIAN RAILWAYS.

787. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Have Government secured the services of Mr. Pope to go into the economic question of Indian Railways, and has any report been prepared by him?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place the report on the table of this House?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Mr. Pope visited India, at the invitation of Government, in the winters of 1932-33 and 1933-34 and submitted two reports on the methods of effecting economy and increasing efficiency on Indian Railways. These reports are available in the Library of the House.

EXPIRY OF LEASE OF CERTAIN COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

788 ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) What are the Company-managed Railways whose periods of lease will expire, and if so, when?

(b) Are Government aware that the Mysore Government intends taking up the Bangalore-Hanthar line from the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway? If so, when and under what terms?

(c) Do Government contemplate extending the lease period of any of the railways? If so, will Government be pleased to state why they do not take up these railways under their management?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Assuming that my Honourable friend is referring to the contracts of Companies managing State-owned Railways, the dates

on which contracts can be terminated, after twelve months' notice in each case, are as follows:

1. Madras and Southern Mahratta. 31st December, 1937.
2. Bengal and North Western and Rohilkund and Kumaon 31st December, 1937, or 1942.
3. Bombay, Baroda and Central India. 31st December, 1941.
4. Assam Bengal 31st December, 1941.
5. South Indian 31st December, 1945.
6. Bengal Nagpur. 31st December, 1950.

(b) The Mysore Government have expressed a desire to take over the Bangalore-Haridar line as early as possible. The question of terms, etc., is under negotiation.

(c) The question of taking over a line to State management is considered near the time when notice of termination has to be given—a year before the date of purchase.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: What is the general policy of Government with regard to this matter of taking up these lines into State management?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The policy depends on the circumstances existing at the time.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Have Government given any thought to the acquisition of the Rohilkund Kumaon Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: This question will be considered very shortly, because notice is to be given on the 31st December, 1936, if it is going to be acquired.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Are Government aware of the fact that the administration of that railway is very unsatisfactory?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is a matter of opinion.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: What is the view of Government so far as the question of administration goes?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That too is a matter of opinion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government considering the question of acquiring the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway management?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That will be taken up at the same time.

Seth Govind Das: What about the Bengal and North-Western Railway

Mr. P. R. Rau: Notice is to be given on the 31st December, 1936. The question whether notice should be given or not will be considered very shortly.

TRANSPORT RATES ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE ON EACH RAILWAY.

789. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what are the transport rates on agricultural produce on each Railway?

(b) Do Government propose to keep the rates uniform on all the Railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) For the purpose of freight rates commodities are placed in ten different classes, the maximum rate for the lowest class being 0.88 pie per maund per mile and for the highest class 1.87 pie per maund per mile. Most agricultural products are in the lowest class, the principal exception being cotton. Within the maximum rate of 0.88 pie and a minimum rate of 0.10 pie, authorised by Government for this class, Railway Administrations are empowered to quote such rates as circumstances require. It is in the exercise of these powers that the actual rates charged for agricultural produce on the various railways are considerably lower than the maximum permissible. The rates charged are notified by the different Railway Administrations in their goods tariffs. To compile the information which my Honourable friend requires showing the variations and also the numerous special rates that are charged for the different commodities covered by the term "agricultural produce" would involve the publication of a bulky volume.

(b) Uniformity in rates is not practicable owing to financial and other conditions on different railways varying.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: With regard to the answer to part (b), why is an uniform rate not fixed for a particular commodity on all lines?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That means that you will have to scrap all existing rates and build up a rates structure anew.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not advisable to do so?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the Honourable Member mean, when he says that agricultural commodities are carried at the lowest rate, that cereals are included in that term?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have said that the actual rates charged for agricultural produce on various railways are considerably lower than the maximum permissible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is another statement that he has made that most of the agricultural products are in the lowest class: does that term include also cereals, like rice, wheat and other grain?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the reason for this difference of rate on certain railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Differing conditions?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway has not so far made any attempt to reduce the railway freight on agricultural produce?

Mr. P. E. Rau: I am not sure of that: I should like to have notice of that question before I attempt to reply to a statement like that.

RESULTS OF THE ROAD-RAIL CONFERENCE.

790. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the results of the Road-Rail Conference?

(b) Has any policy been formulated for combating and developing the Road and Rail transport? If so, will Government be pleased to state what it is?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The Conference adopted eight Resolutions which will be found at the Appendix to the Proceedings, copies of which are in the Library. Briefly, these Resolutions recommended the co-ordination of road and railway development and traffic and the creation of machinery at the Centre and within the Provinces to secure this. These Resolutions have been the subject of correspondence with Local Governments as a result of which there is now, it is believed, a Provincial Board of Communications in every Province upon which railways are represented, and which will, it is hoped, result in a larger measure of co-ordination within the Provinces. There has also been brought into existence a Transport Advisory Council consisting of the Member or Members of the Government of India concerned sitting with Provincial Ministers and their advisers.

(b) A concise statement of policy adopted by the Transport Advisory Council at its first meeting, held in January last, was laid on the table of this House in reply to unstarred question No. 108 asked by Professor N. G. Ranga on the 22nd February, 1935.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the development of road communications in the Madras Presidency is being restricted in order to help the railways?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Might I ask the Honourable Member to repeat his question? And in view of his industry in asking supplementary questions, may I venture to suggest to the Leader of his Party, as a personal favour to us, that Prof. Ranga might be brought to a seat nearer the front than the one he now occupies?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: That matter will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am perfectly prepared to accept the Honourable Member's compliment: but the Honourable Member is just as inaudible to me as I am to him. My question is: is he aware of the fact that the Madras Government are trying to restrict the development of road communications in that province in order to help railways?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No: I am not aware of that: my Honourable colleague, the Railway Member, will be very interested to hear that fact.

AMOUNT SPENT ON PERAMBUR SHOPS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

791. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) What is the amount spent by Government on Perambur Shops on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway?

(b) How much more do Government propose to spend?

(c) What is the expenditure required for Salt Locomotive yard in Madras and Hubli station yards?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of constructing the metre gauge workshops for both Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and South Indian Railway broad gauge and metre gauge?

(e) If Government are not able to connect Madras with metre gauge of Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, are they prepared to take up Madras-Tirupati metre gauge line construction?

(f) Is it a fact that the survey of the Madras-Tirupati metre gauge line has been completed?

(g) Are estimates prepared, and if so, at what cost, and what is the cost of laying the new line?

(h) With a view to lessening the cost of the workshops construction in so many places, do Government propose to consider the advisability of having all the workshops at Madras and connect Tirupati or any metre gauge station to Madras by a metre gauge line?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Rs 258 lakhs.

(b) Rs. 6 lakhs.

(c) Salt Locomotive Yard Rs. 15.65 lakhs; Hubli, Rs. 16.60 lakhs.

(d) No. There is nothing to be gained by doing this.

(e) Government are taking up the re-consideration of all the projects which were considered remunerative but which were dropped for the time being owing to financial stringency. If this project is likely to be remunerative it will be one of the projects that will be reconsidered.

(f) A survey was made in 1912-13 and re-examined in 1928.

(g) The 1912-13 survey cost Rs. 67,000. The re-examination about Rs. 9,000.

In 1928 the cost was estimated at about Rs. 81 lakhs, but this figure will require revision before it can be accepted as the cost, if the line were to be built now.

(h) No.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: May I know whether Government have not considered it remunerative even before they started the survey?

Mr. P. R. Rau: It is only a survey that can enable us to predict whether the line is likely to be remunerative or not: before we start a survey, we cannot say whether it is likely to be remunerative.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Is it not necessary to consider the remunerative nature of a scheme before they made the second survey at least?

Mr. P. R. Rau: It was only a re-examination the second time.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: How many more re-examinations will be necessary?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that if the Tirupati line is carried as far as Madras, the Hubli workshops can be abolished and there can be only one central workshop at Perambur?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I cannot understand the connection between the Tirupati-Madras line and the Hubli workshops.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When the metre gauge line is taken to Madras, there need be only one workshop, and the extra cost can be avoided?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Hubli is more near the centre of the metre-gauge system of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

ELECTION TO THE COMMERCE AND LANDHOLDERS CONSTITUENCIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

792. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if election to commerce and land holders constituency is conducted by post?

(b) Are Government aware that such method of election has given scope for coercion on voters by parties in power and their subordinates?

(c) Did Government send all voting papers to the respective voters in all provinces by registered post?

(d) Was this the case with the Madras Commerce constituency?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that voting papers sent by unregistered post were received by Local Board officials, and others direct from Post Office and coercion was exercised on voters?

(f) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the charges and counter-charges made by the leaders of Justice Party regarding coercion on voters, which was published on the 11th December in *Hindu*?

(g) Are Government prepared to direct such method of election to be adopted as may put an end to this complaint and voting may be done by ballot?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) The relevant regulations provide for postal voting in most but not all of the constituencies of the descriptions to which the Honourable Member refers.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). It rests with the Returning Officer, not with Government, to despatch voting papers. The regulations applicable to the constituencies in Madras, where postal voting is prescribed, differ from those in force in certain other provinces in not requiring ballot papers to be sent by

registered post, and Government presume that they were sent by ordinary post.

(e) Government have no information, but they presume that the Returning Officer complied with regulation 35 of the Legislative Assembly (Madras) Electoral Regulations which requires him to issue through the post a declaration paper and a ballot paper to each elector.

(f) Government have seen the Press report to which the Honourable Member refers.

(g) Government will address the Government of Madras with a view to receiving suggestions for amendment of the Regulations relating to postal elections.

Mr. Deep Narayan Singh: May I suggest that letters be addressed to other provinces also—not only to the province of Madras—in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Is the Honourable Member's question directed to some other province?

Mr. Deep Narayan Singh: Yes, Bihar.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have not got anything here relating to Bihar.

Mr. Deep Narayan Singh: The same system prevails in the land-holders' constituency there, and if any advice is to be given by the Government of India, I want to know whether the Honourable Member will kindly address that letter to other provinces also?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I shall certainly consider the suggestion of my Honourable friend.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Arising out of the answer to part (f) of the question, were Government informed of any postal official having delivered these postal articles to persons other than the voters?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: We have no such information, Sir.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: What is it that the Government of India have perused in regard to the charges and counter-charges by the leaders of the Justice Party?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: My Honourable friend's question, or rather the Honourable Mr. Mudaliar's question was:

"Has the attention of Government been drawn to the charges and counter-charges made by the leaders of Justice Party regarding coercion on voters, which was published on the 11th December in the *Hindu*?"

The answer was that attention has been drawn and Government have seen the press report to which the Honourable Member refers.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Were allegations made of coercion in those attacks?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That can be found out by a perusal of the article.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Government seem to have perused the article, according to their reply: I ask the Honourable the Law Member whether he knows if in those charges and counter-charges any charge of coercion has been made?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not recollect every line of that press publication, but when I say that the Government have seen press reports, it means the entire report, including such charges if any were included in the report, must have been seen.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: May I know what were the charges made in these attacks?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: They must be found in that press-writing which I have not got before me.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FURTHER ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RAILWAY RETRENCHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE.

144. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House a statement showing details of the further action taken by the Railway Board in respect of the recommendations of the Railway Retrenchment Sub-Committee for reduction in railway expenditure since the publication of the last statement in November 1931?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement circulated to all Members of the House in February, 1932, with the Budget Papers, showing the further action taken in respect of the recommendations made in the report of the Railway Retrenchment Sub-Committee. In December, 1932, Mr Pope's investigation was started and the results of his investigations were summarised in statements placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in February, 1934, and in August, 1934.

GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO THE FAMILY OF MR. ARUN CHANDRA GUHA, A STATE PRISONER.

145. **Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the principle and procedure followed in granting allowances to the State Prisoners?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if allowance once granted is withdrawn subsequently? If so, on what principle?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if Babu Arun Chandra Guha, a prisoner under Regulation III of 1818, was ever granted any allowance? If so, what was the amount granted?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if Babu Arun Chandra Guha is still granted the same allowance? If not, why not?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state why his insurance premium, once granted, is now withdrawn?

(f) Are Government aware that Babu Arun Chandra Guha used to draw a substantial allowance from the Saraswaty Press and Saraswaty Library of Calcutta, as the Managing Proprietor, for the maintenance of his family and payment of his insurance premium, before he was arrested in 1930?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state why no allowance is granted to his family, including his aged mother, of which he was the main prop?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Allowances are granted to State Prisoners with reference to their status in life and their wants and those of their dependents, if any. The amount in each case is fixed on the recommendation of the Local Government concerned.

(b) to (d). The allowances of the State Prisoner, Arun Chandra Guha, have not been curtailed but, owing to his having, at one time, over-drawn his allowance, the amount is being recovered by deduction of Rs. 12 a month from the monthly allowance.

(e) The payment of premia has been discontinued in view of the principles observed by Government in this matter, as explained in my predecessor's reply to Mr. S. C. Sen's questions Nos. 226 to 229 on the 13th September, 1932.

(f) and (g). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to Mr. S. C. Mitra's question No. 952 on the 15th September, 1933.

EMPLOYMENT OF A WATCHMAN ON THE SHEDBAL LAKUR ROAD LEVEL CROSSING OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

146. **Mr. S. K. Hosmani:** (a) Is it a fact that there were two accidents between Kudchi and Shedbal on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway on the Shedbal Lokur Road level crossing during the last two months?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no permanent watchman on this level crossing? If so, do Government propose to ask the Railway administration to have one, at an early date, to prevent accidents?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Information is being obtained and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

BURMANS WITH KING'S COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

147. **U Thein Maung:** (a) Will Government please state how many Burmans have received His Majesty the King's Commission in the Army and how they are employed now?

(b) Will Government please state why they are no longer in the Army?

(c) Will Government please state whether they would be retransferred to the Army in the near future?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a), (b) and (c). Seven Burmans have so far been granted the King's Commission in the Indian Army. Of these one has retired, four have resigned their Commissions and two are still serving. It is not known how those who are no longer in the Army are employed, but as they left the service of their own accord they have presumably no desire to return to it.

FACILITIES FOR TRAINING OF BURMANS FOR THE ARMY, INDIAN MARINE AND AERIAL FORCES.

148. U Thein Maung: Will Government please state:

(a) what facilities there are for training Burmans for:

- (i) the Army,
- (ii) the Indian Marine, and
- (iii) the aerial force.

(b) what are the qualifications required for such training:

(c) whether any Burman is being trained for them; and

(d) what steps Government have taken, or are going to take, to get them trained in the near future?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) All Burmans are eligible for admission to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, and to the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, as well as for entry to all ranks of the Royal Indian Navy. They are also eligible for enlistment in the Indian Air Force. The four battalions of the 20th Burma Rifles are recruited entirely in Burma from Kachins, Karens and Chins.

(b) The qualifications are given in the following pamphlets copies of which are in the Library:

- (1) Provisional Regulations respecting admission to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, 1932.
- (2) Regulations respecting entry of Indian gentlemen to the Indian Air Force through the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, 1933
- (3) Conditions of service, rates of pay, etc., of airmen of the combatant Branch of the Indian Air Force.
- (4) Regulations respecting the recruitment, training, etc., of commissioned officers of the Royal Indian Navy.

(c) None at present

(d) In the opinion of the Government of India, this is a question that must be left to the future Government of Burma.

PROMOTIONS OF INDIAN GUARDS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA
RAILWAY.

149. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian Guards on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have sent a representation to the effect that no Indian has been appointed as yet as a permanent A grade passenger guard on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number and percentage of Indian, Anglo-Indian and European guards classified according to community and employed on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in the following posts:

A grade passenger guard;

A grade goods guard;

B grade goods guard;

C grade goods guard;

Branch Line guard—grades I and II;

Pilot guard?

(c) Is it a fact that upto now all permanent posts of passenger guards on the main line have been denied to Indians on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the services of Indian guards have been mostly utilised only in the Branch Lines for passenger service?

(d) Is it a fact that very few Indians have been appointed as A grade goods guards on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether the representation of Indian B grade goods guards for promotion to Main Line passenger guards grade on the basis of seniority in the combined A and B grade goods grades instead of A grade only, will be favourably considered?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

WORKING HOURS OF THE TRICHY FORT POST OFFICE.

150. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any communication from the merchants at Trichinopoly to alter the present working hours of the Trichy Fort Post Office? If so, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Government have received a copy of a resolution, passed at a meeting of the merchants of Trichinopoly, requesting the Superintendent of Post Offices, Trichinopoly, to make certain alterations in the working hours of the Trichinopoly Fort Post Office. Government do not propose to take any action as the Superintendent of Post Offices, Trichinopoly, to whom a copy of the resolution has been sent direct, is fully competent to deal with the matter.

REDUCTION IN THE EARNINGS OF THE PIECE-WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

151. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Are Government aware that the earnings of the piece workers have been considerably reduced in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, owing to the serious shortage of type, material, galleys and case? If so, what compensation do Government propose to give to the piece workers?

(b) Is it a fact that a large number of compositors has been added to the staff of the Government of India Press, New Delhi? If so, has there been any corresponding increase in the type and material? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware that piece workers are threatened by the Assistant Manager that if they agitate in the matter, they will be turned out of the gates? If so, have the piece workers who are also Government servants, no right to get their grievances redressed?

(d) Is it a fact that thousands of pounds of brand new type was melted in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, during the last five years? If so, why and what was the quantity melted down and what was its cost?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) The reply to the first two parts is in the affirmative. The third part does not arise.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(d) 8,016 lbs. of unused foundry cast type, purchased between 1924 and 1926 and costing approximately Rs. 9,300, was melted during the last five years as it was surplus to requirements and the metal was required for use as Mono metal, which was then in demand.

REFUSAL OF COMPOSITION WORK AT PIECE RATES TO PIECE-WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

152 **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Is it a fact that composition work payable at piece rates is totally refused to piece workers who are being paid at rates arbitrarily fixed which brings down their income?

(b) If Government cannot find piece rate work for their piece workers, what is the necessity of continuing the piece work system instead of substituting it by fixed rates of pay as in the Government of India Press, Simla?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) The Honourable Member's assumption that there is no piece work is not correct. The latter part of the question does not arise.

CREATION OF POSTS OF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

153. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that several higher grade posts of readers have been created in the Government of India Press, New Delhi? If so, have the posts been filled? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Six posts of readers were created and they have been filled.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TO PROOF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

154. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Is it a fact that work is not distributed to proof readers in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, according to their grades and pay drawn? If so, why?

(b) Is it also a fact that some readers in the grade of Rs. 200—10—250 are not doing any proof reading at all and are deputed in sections on duties which are either clerical or concern the supervising staff only?

(c) Is it also a fact that junior readers are being compelled to perform work of a highly responsible nature and senior readers drawing higher salaries are either given author's reading or engaged in burning waste papers?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 22nd December, 1933, to Mr. S. C. Jog's unstarred question No. 370.

(b) No: all the readers in the grade of Rs. 200—10—250 do press readings. One is also employed on supervision.

(c) No.

RECRUITMENT OF A READER IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

155. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Is it a fact that an apprentice in the Calcutta Press has been recruited as a seniormost reader in the grade of Rs. 200—10—250?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government state why an outsider has been appointed affecting the future prospects of the readers in junior grade against the decision of the Works Committee?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). An apprentice who is a graduate and successfully completed his course of training in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, has been appointed as a senior reader, as he was better qualified than readers in the lower grades to hold that post.

TRANSFER OF A RAILWAY EMPLOYEE FROM HIS NATIVE DIVISION TO OUT-DIVISION STATION.

156. **Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** Will Government be pleased to state the rules, conventions and considerations which are usually observed in effecting a transfer of a Railway employee from his native division to out-division station?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Transfers are made in the interests of service.

NON-RECOGNITION OF THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION OF INDIAN WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, POONA.

157. **Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta:** (a) Has the attention of the Government of India, been drawn to the note in the *Hindustan Times*, of the 16th February, 1935, under the caption "our C. P. letter" to the effect that Government of India, have turned down the recommendation of the Nagpur University, for the recognition of the Entrance Examination of the S. N. D. T. Indian Women's University, Poona?

(b) Is it a fact that the Nagpur University did recommend for the recognition referred to above?

(c) Is it also a fact that both the Academic and Executive Council of the Nagpur University recommended that?

(d) Is it also a fact that the recommendation was unanimously made by the two bodies?

(e) Is it a fact that the Government of India turned down the recommendation?

(f) Will the Government of India kindly state the reasons for this step?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) to (e). Yes.

(f) The recommendation of the Nagpur University was not accepted by the Government of India as the "Entrance" examination of the Indian Women's University, Poona, is not recognised either by the Government of Bombay or by Bombay University as equivalent to the Matriculation examination of the Bombay University. In fact the standard is said to be lower than that of the Bombay Matriculation examination.

PROHIBITION OF MUSIC WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NEW DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

158. **Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta:** (a) Is it a fact that music of all description has been banned within the limits of New Delhi Municipality?

(b) If so, will Government kindly inform:

(i) the terms of the prohibition order;

(ii) the authority issuing the same; and

(iii) the circumstances necessitating this step?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) and (b) (i). No. I lay on the table a copy of a prohibiting order which has been issued, from which the Honourable Member will see that it relates only to the playing of certain kinds of music under certain conditions.

(b) (ii). The New Delhi Municipal Committee under section 184 of the Punjab Municipal Act, III of 1911.

(b) (iii). The prohibition is designed for the convenience of residents and is in accordance with the practice in force in most cities in India.

Statement.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 184 of the Punjab Municipal Act, III of 1911, the New Delhi Municipal Committee direct that beating of drums or tom-toms, blowing of horns or trumpets and sounding any brass or other instruments or utensils within the limits of New Delhi Municipality along the streets and in public parks of New Delhi is prohibited except with the previous written permission of the Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Committee and subject to the following provisos :

- (1) This prohibition will not apply to any Orchestra, Band or Music organised by the State or Military Departments in Government buildings or in public streets.
 - (2) This prohibition will not apply to any Band or music played in or at a recognised Public Club House, Hotels, Cinemas and Restaurants.
 - (3) This prohibition will not apply to any musical ceremonies conducted in any religious edifice in accordance with the customs of that religion.
2. In private residences, any organised Band or Orchestra will not be played during the following hours without the previous written permission of the Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Committee :
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| (a) April to September | 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.
10 p. m. to 5 a. m. |
| (b) October to March | 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.
10 p. m. to 6 a. m. |
3. Permission will be granted by the Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Committee, in every case subject to the concurrence of the Senior Superintendent of Police.
4. Any person disobeying this General Prohibition order will render himself liable to the penalty of a fine of Rs. 25 as laid down in Section 184 of the Municipal Act.

POSTING OF ASSISTANT SURGEONS TO HOSPITALS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

159 **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what hospitals of the East Indian Railway are under the charge of Sub-Assistant Surgeons only?

(b) Is it a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons on the East Indian Railway are not qualified to perform major operations?

(c) Are Government prepared to post Assistant Surgeons to such Railway Hospitals as are now under the charge of Sub-Assistant Surgeons only at present, in view of the disability suffered by employees owing to the absence of qualified Assistant Surgeons in the Railway Hospitals?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

STAFF CLASSIFIED AS INTERMITTENT ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

160 **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the staff on the East Indian Railway to whom the Hours of Employment Regulations are applicable are permitted to leave their places of duty, if classified as intermittent and no work is immediately available?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many staff on the East Indian Railway among those classified as intermittent workers are housed in railway quarters near their respective places of work?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the actual number of rest days allowed to different classes of intermittent workers on East Indian Railway in different divisions according to the records available with the Supervisor of Labour?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff who received overtime payment under the Hours of Employment Regulations and the total amounts paid in each Division every year since the Regulations were enforced on the East Indian Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to section 71A (a) of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1980, which lays down the conditions under which the employment of a railway servant may be declared to be "essentially intermittent". Government have no information as regards the exact practice on the East Indian Railway, but are making enquiries.

(d) Government understand that during 1982-83, on the East Indian Railway, 620 railway employees were paid overtime under the Hours of Employment Regulations, the total amount paid during that year being Rs. 3,170.

WORKING HOURS OF STATION MASTERS ON CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

161. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Station Masters in the following stations are working 84 hours per week:

Zamania, Chousa, Saidraza, Karamnasa, Chandouli, Majhwar, Twinganja, Sakaldiah, Fatehpur?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information but are making enquiries. A reply will be laid on the table in due course.

COMPLAINTS UNDER THE HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

162. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of complaints received under the Hours of Employment Regulations, by the Labour Inspectorate and found to be correct on the East Indian Railway during 1984?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government understand that three complaints were received by the Supervisor of Railway Labour during 1984 from the staff of the East Indian Railway and that these are, at present, under investigation.

STAFF PERFORMING CONTINUAL NIGHT DUTY ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

163. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff performing continual night duty on East Indian Railway according to the information of the Labour Inspectorate?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government understand that this information is not available in the Labour Inspectorate.

STAFF GETTING LESS THAN EIGHT HOURS' REST ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

164. Mr. B. B. Varma: Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff found to be habitually getting less than eight consecutive hours' rest in the 24 by the Labour Inspectorate under paragraph IX of their periodic report to the Agent, East Indian Railway upto now?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government understand that this information is not available in the Labour Inspectorate.

TREATING OF LOCOMOTIVE ASSISTANT RUNNING SHED FOREMEN AS CONTINUOUS WORKERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

165. Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Locomotive Assistant Running Shed Foremen at Bandel, Onda, Allahabad and Tundla are required to perform daily 12 hours duties on the ground that they are supervisory staff although Yard Masters, Assistant Yard Masters, Head Train Examiners, Assistant Station Masters, supervising stations classified as "supervisory staff" under Railway Board Regulations are treated as continuous workers and given the benefit of 60-hour week?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether on the advice of the Labour Inspectorate, they propose to treat the Locomotive Assistant Running Shed Foremen in the aforesaid stations as "continuous workers"?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am calling for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

DAILY ALLOWANCE OF SECTION BOILER MAKERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

166 Mr. B. B. Varma: Is it a fact that section boiler makers of Locomotive Department on East Indian Railway receive only ten annas as daily allowance although their grade is Rs. 500, while fitters are entitled to Re. 1 per day as allowance and if the reply is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to raise the rate of daily allowance to section boiler makers on this Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government are not prepared to interfere in the fixing of wages for individual classes of workmen, which they have left to the local Administration.

NIGHT DUTY ALLOWANCE OF PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

167. Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Is it a fact that Permanent Way Inspectors in Howrah Division on the East Indian Railway receive night duty allowance for seven nights in a month and in the remaining five divisions for ten nights whereas M.T.Is., P.T.Is., and C.T.Is., receive night duty allowance without any restriction?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to remove the existing anomalies?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have no information.

(b) This is a matter entirely within the competence of the Agent, East Indian Railway, to decide, and a copy of the question has been sent to him.

JUDGING OF THE WORK OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

168. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the work of the Travelling Ticket Examiners is judged by the earnings shown and not merely by checking of the tickets of the travelling passengers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (b) of question No. 1366, asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 11th December, 1933.

NON-SUPPLY OF WINTER UNIFORMS TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS AND INSPECTORS IN THE HOWRAH DIVISION.

169. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that winter uniforms have not been supplied to Travelling Ticket Examiners and Travelling Ticket Inspectors in Howrah Division only on the East Indian Railway?

(b) If the reply to the preceding part be in the affirmative, will Government state the reasons for this special discrimination?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government are enquiring and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

RUNNING ALLOWANCE ADMISSIBLE TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS AND INSPECTORS ON CERTAIN STATE RAILWAYS.

170. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of running allowance admissible to Travelling Ticket Examiners and Travelling Ticket Inspectors on East Indian Railway, North Western Railway, Eastern Bengal Railway and Great Indian Peninsula Railway;

(b) whether they are paid on a different basis;

(c) if so, for what reasons?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Running or mileage allowances are not admissible to Travelling Ticket Examiners and Travelling Ticket Inspectors on any of the Railways mentioned

(b) and (c). Do not arise

PROMOTION OF ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

171. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Is it a fact that formerly Assistant Station Masters on the East Indian Railway were eligible for promotion to B grade guardships and that this practice has been recently stopped? If so, why?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

FILLING UP OF RELIEVING VACANCIES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

172. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Is it a fact that opportunities for filling relieving vacancies as Platform Assistants or Controllers at important stations are now mainly thrown open to relieving guards and not senior Assistant Station Masters on the East Indian Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course

UNIFORMS SUPPLIED TO INDIAN ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

173. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Is it a fact that an Indian Assistant Station Master on East Indian Railway is supplied with a coat only whereas other staff who are supplied with uniforms get better treatment?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

ABOLITION OF POSTS OF RELIEVING GUARDS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

174. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Is it a fact that since 1933 according to the orders of the Railway Board, the posts of relieving guards have been abolished and changed to Relieving Assistant Station Masters on the East Indian Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No such orders have been issued by the Railway Board.

PROMOTION OF "A" GRADE GUARDS AS RELIEVING GUARDS IN THE ALLAHABAD DIVISION.

175. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Is it a fact that in Allahabad Division of the East Indian Railway, there is still in existence the practice of promoting 'A' grade guards as relieving guards without allowing Assistant Station Masters any opportunities for promotion to those posts?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information.

POSTING OF GUARDS AS GUNNERS AT MOGHALSARAI.

176. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Is it a fact that in Moghalsarai, guards are posted as Gunners and Travelling Ticket Examiners are utilised as guards to the great detriment of the former class of employees resulting in considerable loss of over-time earnings?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information.

REST AVAILABLE TO THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF AT GAYA, PATNA AND DINAPORE.

177. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state what average period of rest in the roster of 12 hours' shift duties is available to East Indian Railway ticket checking staff at Gaya, Patna and Dinapore?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am calling for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course

SEVENTY-ONE HOURS' DUTY PROGRAMME OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS IN THE DINAPORE DIVISION.

178. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that on the 26th October, 1934, the Secretary of the East Indian Railway Union, Dinapore, sent a telegram to the Labour Supervisor, Railway Board, Delhi, protesting against the 71 hours' duty programme per week enforced on the Travelling Ticket Examiners of the Dinapore Division?

(b) Was any enquiry held in the matter and if so, what was the result of the enquiry?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes

(b) The matter was enquired into by the Supervisor of Railway Labour early in December, 1934, and it was found that the East Indian Railway Administration had themselves set the matter right arranging for the staff concerned to work to a weekly limit of 56 hours with effect from the 1st November, 1934.

RIGHT OF APPEAL TO RAILWAY STAFF IN CASES OF FORFEITURE OF GRATUITY.

179 **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Board are prepared to allow right of appeal to staff in all cases of forfeiture of gratuity as in the case of Provident Fund Bonus?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Gratuity stands on a different footing from Provident Fund bonus. The former is essentially an *ex gratia* payment as a reward for good, efficient, faithful and continuous service. The rules provide that only the Agent can reduce or withhold gratuities and Government do not consider it either desirable or necessary to allow any right of appeal.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

180. Mr. B. B. Varma: With reference to their reply to starred question No. 1033, given in the Legislative Assembly on the 20th March, 1931, will Government be pleased to state what action the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway has taken in the matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information.

PROMOTIONS OF ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS IN THE DELHI DIVISION.

181. Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Are Government aware that several Assistant Station Masters in Delhi Division of the North Western Railway who could not be sent to pass Station Master's examination in time due to administrative inconvenience are applying for their due promotion with arrears, for the last two years? Has any representation been received and if so, with what result?

(b) Is it a fact that due to this, junior men are getting more pay while seniors less? If so, how do Government propose to remove the anomaly?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Agent, North Western Railway under his letter No. 520-E./202, dated the 27th April 1934, has replied that since the system was in existence since long, it cannot be remedied?

(d) Is it a fact that the grade I of the Assistant Station Masters over the North Western Railway is Rs. 95, and if so, why are they stopped for three years on Rs. 75?

(e) Is it a fact that Assistant Station Masters are responsible for the duties of train passing and for all duties of Station Master in his absence, and if so, how is it that the Station Masters get sixth or seventh grade while an Assistant Station Master is of grade I on the same station?

(f) Is it a fact that commercial clerks who are supposed to be under him get far higher pay than an Assistant Station Master and if so, for what reasons?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No representations have been received by Government. The matters referred to in the question are all within the competence of the Local Railway Administration to decide, but I have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, North Western Railway, for his information and such action as he may consider necessary.

SENIORITY LISTS OF ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

182 Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) How is the seniority of the lower subordinates on the North Western Railway governed, whether by pay or by service?

(b) Are Government prepared to arrange for maintenance of seniority lists of Assistant Station Masters in the same way as maintained in the Traffic Audit Branch of North Western Railway (*vide* Appendix A, Legislative Assembly Debates, 23rd February 1934) and made available for perusal of the staff concerned?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

**PASSES GRANTED TO STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY BEING
RESIDENT OF PLACES ON OTHER STATE RAILWAYS.**

183. Mr. B. B. Varma: Are Government aware that over North Western Railway many of the staff being resident on other State Railway stations cannot take the advantage of the local passes, and are Government prepared to allow discretion to such staff to take passes over any State Railway on home line privilege basis?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government are not aware that there is any considerable number of North Western Railway employees who come from areas other than those served by that Railway. The rules for the issue of passes provide for a certain number being issued annually over the line to which an employee belongs and for two passes for a journey involving travelling over other Railways. Government do not consider that these concessions can be considered illiberal and are not prepared to extend them in the manner proposed.

**REFUSAL OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES TO STATION MASTERS ON THE
DELHI-UMBALA KALKA SECTION.**

184. Mr. B. B. Varma: How is it that on certain stations on the Delhi Umbala Kalka sections permanent-way inspectors are sanctioned pankha coolies in hot weather and coal in winter but the station masters on the same stations are refused this privilege?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

**NON-SUPPLY OF WINTER UNIFORM TO THE STATION MASTERS, ETC., IN THE
DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

185. Mr. B. B. Varma: Is it a fact that over the North Western Railway in Delhi Division, Signallers and the Yard Foremen who have no public dealing are given winter uniform annually, but the Station Master and the Assistants are not? If so, why?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for some information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

**IMPORT OF COTTON VESTS WITH COLLARS BY JAPAN AND GRANT OF
PROTECTION TO THE INDIGENOUS HOSIERY INDUSTRIALISTS.**

186. Dr Thein Maung: (a) Are Government aware

- (i) that of late, the Japanese Hosiery Manufacturers have been importing cotton vests, with collars, made from knitted fabric, in large quantities, and that the import has increased from month to month;

- (ii) that the cotton vests, with collars, being classed as "apparel" have to pay only 35 per cent. Tariff duty and not annas 12 per pound as the ordinary vests have to pay;
- (iii) that by such increase of imports of cotton vests, with collar, the local hosiery manufacturers are hard hit?

(b) If the answer be in the negative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of enquiring into the matter, with a view to remedying the defect?

(c) If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government please state what steps are being taken to give real protection to the hosiery industry in that particular line?

(d) Is it a fact that representations have been made by the hosiery industrialists to the Government to have this defect remedied, and that no steps have been taken by the Government? If so, why?

(e) Are Government aware that "Interlock Fabric", that is cotton knitted fabric made on "Interlock Machine" is made in Burma and thus hosiery industry in Burma is the hardest hit by the Japanese competition in that particular line?

(f) If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of amending the rules with a view to giving protection to the indigenous hosiery industrialists?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). Inquiries have shown that no serious attempt has been made to evade the protective duty on cotton undervests by the importation of such vests with collars attached. Representations have, however, been received to the effect that since the protective duty was imposed the Indian hosiery industry is being affected by the importation of new lines of cotton knitted apparel, such as, sports shirts and pullovers, which are entirely different in character to undervests and which are rightly classified for customs purposes as apparel dutiable at 35 per cent. *ad valorem*. The question of the protection, if any, required by the hosiery industry in India and Burma is now under the consideration of Government.

RATE WAR STARTED BY THE IRRAWADDY FLOTILLA COMPANY, LIMITED.

187. Dr. Thein Maung: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the information supplied by the Burma Launch Owners' Association, Rangoon, as desired by the Joint Secretary of the Department of Commerce, in his letter dated the 15th September, 1984, has been duly received, and if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

(b) Are Government aware that the rate war started by the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company Ltd. since 1st August, 1984, is having a disastrous effect on the Burmese and Indian Launch Owners in the Delta Division of Burma, and that unless urgent steps are taken to extend the provision of

Act XIII of 1930 to Burma, the owners of the small launches will come to grief before the year 1935 is over?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) and (b). The information referred to by the Honourable Member has just been received and the whole matter is under consideration.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE SILK INDUSTRY IN BURMA.

188. **Dr. Thein Maung:** (a) Are Government aware:

- (i) that the *ad valorem* value of the Chinese silk,—for example Yellow Shanghai or other kinds,—is fixed at Rs. 3 or Rs. 2-14-0 per pound, whereas the value of Siamese silk is fixed at Rs. 5 per pound, i.e., the tariff rate of the Siamese silk is higher than that of the Chinese silk, and
- (ii) that on that account the silk weaving industry in Burma, which uses Siamese silk generally, is undergoing much hardship as it cannot compete with the Chinese silk goods?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of amending the rates enumerated in Serial No. 45A of No. 157A in the Statutory Schedule of the Indian Customs Tariff, with a view to safeguarding the silk industry in Burma?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, are Government prepared to enquire into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to item No. 46 of the Import Tariff in the first Schedule of Indian Customs Tariff (eleventh issue) copies of which are in the Library. It will be observed that from the 1st January, 1935, the tariff valuations of raw silk have been recast and Siamese raw silk is not assessed to duty on a tariff valuation since that date.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

189. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government please state the number of Indians in the Finance Department in the following posts:

- (i) Secretary,
- (ii) Joint Secretary,
- (iii) Deputy Secretary, and
- (iv) Under Secretary,

from the year 1928 till the present day?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of Indians in the Finance Department in the Posts of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary from the year 1928 onwards.

Year.	Secretary.	Joint Secretary.	Deputy Secretary.	Under Secretary.
1928	1	1
1929	1
1930	1
1931	1
1932	1	1
1933	1
1934
1935

SUPPLY OF PRINTED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ONE OR TWO DAYS IN ADVANCE.

190. **Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta:** (a) Is it a fact that answers of Government to questions proposed to be asked by the members of the Central Provinces Legislative Council are printed along with questions?

(b) Is it a fact that printed questions and answers are supplied to the members a day or two in advance?

(c) Is it also a fact that the questions and answers are not actually read out?

(d) Will Government please state which other Provincial Legislatures follow this practice, and which of them do not?

(e) Will Government please state the practice followed with respect to this in the Provincial Legislatures, where answers are not printed along with questions?

(f) Are Government aware that this saves a lot of time and facilitates the speedy disposal of business?

(g) Have Government any objection to the Central Provinces practice being followed here?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) and (e). Government are aware that the practice obtains in some of the Local Legislative Councils but are not in possession of complete information in the matter.

(f) and (g). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena's starred question No. 657 asked on the 5th March, 1935.

PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT A RAILWAY LINE FROM DRUG, BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY, TO BASTAR AND SALUR.

191. Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: (a) Was there a proposal to construct a Railway line from Drug (Bengal-Nagpur Railway) to Bastar and Salur?

(b) How far has that proposal matured, or has that proposal been finally abandoned? If not, what is its number in the list of proposed Railways?

(c) When is the construction likely to begin?

(d) What is its estimated cost?

(e) Has the alignment been made?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) This proposal has been shelved as it was considered not financially justified, and the construction of the Raipur-Vizianagram line has altered the position. It is thought that the areas in question would be better served by roads or short branch lines from the latter.

(c), (d) and (e). Do not arise.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AND PASSENGERS TRAVELLING IN RAILWAY TRAINS.

192. Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the following information with respect to each of the Railways for each of the last five years, separately, with respect to first, second, intermediate and third class passengers:

(a) available accommodation (their number);

(b) actual number of passengers travelling;

(c) the ratio of (b) to (a)?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information asked for by the Honourable Member can be obtained from the statements Nos. 10, 34, 12 and 86 in Volume II of the Reports by the Railway Board for the years 1929-30 to 1933-34. Copies of these reports are available in the Library of the House.

PREFERENCE FOR RICE IN CEYLON AND MALAYA.

193. U Thein Maung: With reference to paragraph 5 (a) of the Report of the Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly to examine and report on the working of the scheme of Mutual Preferences between India and the United Kingdom, arising out of the Ottawa Trade Agreement, will Government please state:

(a) what steps they have taken to secure a preference for rice in Ceylon and Malaya, and

(b) what are the results thereof?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) and (b). The Government of India are still negotiating with the authorities concerned for a preference on Indian rice in Ceylon and Malaya.

BURMANISATION OF UNITS IN THE ARMY.

194. U Thein Maung: With reference to the statements laid on the table by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in connection with question No. 90, asked by the Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna in the Council of State on the 14th August, 1934 (now published at pages 16-17 of the Council of State Debates, 1935, Vol. I), will Government please state:

(a) whether it is their accepted policy:

(i) to Burmanize any of the units in the Army, and

(ii) to raise new Burmese units:

(b) whether any, and if so, which of the existing units have been earmarked for Burmanization and how Burmese officers would be trained and provided for them;

(c) what other steps are being taken by Government to Burmanize the army in Burma and what the rate of progress would be;

(d) what steps Government are taking:

(i) to train Burmans for the Air Force and the Royal Marine and to employ them therein, and

(ii) for the general training of the Burmese people to defend themselves and their country?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a), (b) and (c). The whole question of the future defence of Burma is under consideration and no information can be given at present.

(d) Attention is invited to the reply to the Honourable Member's unstarred question No. 148 of today's date. ,

OLD LOWER CLASS CARRIAGES USED BETWEEN MUZAFFARPUR AND PALIZA GHAT RAILWAY STATIONS AND PLYING OF SOME STEAM BOATS FOR DIGHA GHAT.

195. Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that within the last three months the Bengal and North Western Railway has again begun to run old type third and intermediate class compartments between Muzaffarpur and Paliza Ghat Railway stations?

(b) Are Government aware that in the afternoon and evening, the same steam boat is plied for both the stations Digha Ghat and Mahendra from Paliza Ghat thus causing great inconvenience to passengers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, states that composite third and intermediate class carriages run between Muzaffarpur and Paliza Ghat as heretofore, and that there has been no change in this respect. ,

(b) The same steamboat serves both the stations as the traffic offering does not justify the running of two separate steamers.

ABSENCE OF WAITING ACCOMMODATION FOR PASSENGERS ON THE CHUPRA KATCHERY RAILWAY STATION.

196. Mr. B. B. Varma: Is it a fact that a very large number of third and intermediate class passengers are booked from Chapra Katchery Railway station on the Bengal and North Western Railway every day and

there is no waiting accommodation for third and intermediate class passengers on that station?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government are not aware of the exact arrangements at Chupra Katcheri. They are sending a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, in order that he may have the matter examined.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY UNION AT DINAPORE.

197. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Are Government aware whether there is any East Indian Railway Union at Dinapore?

(b) Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway in his letter No. 1884/21, dated the 1st April, 1927, said he had no objection to the employees of East Indian Railway becoming members of a trade union organised and conducted under Act 16 of 1926?

(c) Is it a fact that in spite of the assurance given in the above letter of the Agent, the representations made by the above Union are not entertained? If so, are Government prepared to order that the representations made by the Union be given consideration to in future? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

TREATMENT OF INDIAN STAFF IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY HOSPITAL AT TUNDLA.

198. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many nurses are employed in the East Indian Railway Hospital at Tundla?

(b) Is it a fact that these nurses are employed to look after European Ward only and that their services are not available for Indian patients, both male and female?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of the absence of mid-wives or nurses to look after Indian ladies, many serious cases of confinement have been refused admission into the hospital?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indian and non-Indian maternity cases treated in the Tundla Railway Hospital and the respective number of cases which ended in mortality during the last three years?

(e) Is it a fact that the services of a qualified private doctor are not available in or about Tundla and that there is no Assistant Surgeon employed in the Railway Hospital, and are Government aware that Indian patients do not obtain adequate medical assistance in serious cases?

(f) Is it a fact that the District Medical Officer mostly attends to European cases, and will Government state the number of Indian patients personally examined by him in the Railway Hospital during the last three years?

(g) Will Government state the present scale of fees charged and concessions allowed to low-paid employees in the said hospital?

Mr. P. B. Rau: I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL SERVICE TELEGRAPHISTS.

199. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) With reference to the reply to question No. 40(j) of Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen in this House on the 25th February, 1933, is it not a fact that seniority and experience which the forced station service telegraphists possess was wanting in those outsiders recruited direct to the general service?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, and in view of the replies given in this House to question No. 40(j) on the 25th February, 1933 and question No. 367(i) on the 6th March, 1934, will Government please state why no provision could be made for transfer of these forced station service telegraphists, declared fit on examination, to the general service and who were surplus when they recruited Anglo-Indians at the same time?

(c) Will Government please state why the remaining 100 men or so of this particular group are made to suffer?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes, except that the experience of the forced station service telegraphists is confined to the conditions of station service.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (g) of the question No. 40 mentioned by him.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to part (c) of the reply given to Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen's unstarred question No. 42 in this House on the 25th February, 1933.

FIXATION OF THE SCALES OF PAY OF STATION SERVICE TELEGRAPHISTS.

200. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that the reasons for fixing the scales of pay of a station service telegraphist at a much lower rate than his colleague in the general service, are that the former is allowed the option to choose a station of his liking and is not liable to be transferred? If not, what are the reasons?

(b) Is it a fact that some of the station service telegraphists who chose Barisal Telegraph Office as their station had to be transferred to Calcutta on conversion of the former into a combined Post Office?

(c) Is it a fact that the scales of pay of a station service telegraphist at Calcutta are much higher than those of a Station service telegraphist of Barisal?

(d) Is it also a fact that these different scales of pay had been fixed in consideration of the cost of living prevailing at the respective places?

(e) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government please state if it is not a fact that under the existing conditions of service of station service telegraphists, these men are entitled to choose a station of their liking for the second time?

(f) If the reply to part (e) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for refusing to adjust the pay of these men according to scales prevailing at Calcutta where they have been transferred to on conversion of Barisal office?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.

(b) The fact is not exactly as stated. On the conversion of the Barisal telegraph office into a combined post and telegraph office the station service telegraphists of that office were given their choice of another station. One of them volunteered for any station except Chittagong and the rest for any station without reservation. They were accordingly provided for in the Calcutta Central Telegraph Office. Subsequently they were given another choice of station but they preferred to remain in Calcutta.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (b) above.

(f) The pay of the men was fixed in the station service scale of the Calcutta office strictly in accordance with Fundamental Rule 22 which is statutory.

COMPULSORY PERFORMANCE OF OVERTIME BY THE TELEGRAPHISTS AND CLERK IN TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

201. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that under the existing rules, telegraphists and clerks in Telegraph Offices can be compelled to perform overtime after completion of full term of duty by heads of offices?

(b) Is it also a fact that a telegraphist or a clerk cannot be paid for any overtime performed in a week in which he happens to take leave on average pay for sickness or urgent business?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to modify the rules for proper regulation of the same? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Telegraphists and clerks in telegraph offices can be called upon to perform duty on payment of overtime allowances on occasions of extraordinary pressure and emergency.

(b) Not necessarily. Overtime is paid for duty performed in excess of 50 hours in one week.

(c) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b), Government see no reason to modify the existing rules.

INCREMENTS GRANTED TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

202. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if increments are granted to the staff if their work and conduct are considered satisfactory?

(b) Is it a fact that cases occur where increments are withheld by the heads of offices if they consider that the conditions therefor are not fulfilled?

(c) Is it a fact that the order withholding any official's increment may be upset on appeal, if there be no good grounds to withhold it on the due date?

(d) If so, will Government please state if in such cases the official will be entitled to draw this increment from the original date, as if there was no order for withholding it?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) The matter is one for the decision of the appellate authority concerned.

SPECIAL INITIAL RATES OF PAY IN THE POSTAL BRANCH AND TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

203. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the date from which special initial rates of pay were introduced in the Postal Branch and Telegraph Branch, separately, and when it was discontinued in both, and lay a copy of these orders on the table?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why it was not extended to the Telegraph Branch from the date of amalgamation of the two Branches, or from the date of issue of the order to the Postal Branch, whichever is earlier?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) By the expression "Telegraph Branch", the Honourable Member presumably refers to the clerical cadre of the Telegraph Branch, and by the term "special initial rates of pay" he presumably refers to the higher starting pay formerly given to Graduates and passed Intermediates. The concession was granted in the Postal Branch from 1st December, 1919, and in the Telegraph Traffic Branch from 7th December, 1929. The concession was discontinued with effect from the 24th December, 1930. Copies of relevant orders are attached.

(b) By the expression "amalgamation of the two Branches" the Honourable Member presumably refers to the equalisation of the pay of the clerical staff in all Branches of the Department which took place with effect from the 1st March, 1927. The concession of higher initial rates of pay was granted to officials in the Postal Branch on the recommendation of the Postal Committee of 1920. It was not granted in the Telegraph Traffic Branch as the Telegraph Committee of 1920 made no such recommendation. The concession was extended to the latter Branch from the 7th December, 1929 though the scales of pay were equalised from the 1st March, 1927. This delay was due to the fact that in view of the increased scales of pay, the question of the necessity for the continuance of the concession was under consideration and was only finally decided in December, 1929.

Resolution by the Government of India, Department of Commerce, No. 6453, dated Simla, the 23rd September, 1920.

In continuation of the Resolution in the Department of Commerce No. 4737, dated the 30th July, 1920, the Government of India, agreeing generally with the recommendations of the Postal Enquiry Committee, are pleased to pass the following orders with regard to the clerical establishments in Post Offices the pay of which does not exceed Rs. 200—20—300, Inspectors of Post Offices, Head clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices, Departmental Branch Postmasters and Overseas.

* * * * *

Paid probations as a separate class will be abolished. When a person is selected for employment in the Post Office, he will ordinarily be placed on the minimum pay of the time-scale applicable to the office to which he is attached, and will remain on that pay for a period of 2 years during which he will be regarded as under training and on probation. If the recruit is a man who has passed the Intermediate Examination, his starting pay will be that admissible from the beginning of the 3rd year of service under the appropriate time-scale, while if he is a graduate he will start on the pay admissible from the beginning of the 5th year of service under the same time-scale.

3. Date of giving effect to the new scales of pay—The Committee have recommended that the new scales of pay together with the local allowances proposed in certain districts in the Central Circle should be introduced from the 1st December, 1919, in view of the fact that revision of pay of the Telegraph Department was introduced from that date, and the Government of India have decided to accept this proposal.

Resolution by the Government of India, Department of Commerce, No. 6584, dated Simla, the 29th September, 1920.

In continuation of the Resolution in the Department of Commerce, No. 6458, dated the 23rd September, 1920, the Government of India are pleased to pass the following orders on the recommendations of the Postal Enquiry Committee, with regard to the clerical establishments in the Railway Mail Service whose pay does not exceed Rs. 200—20—300, Assistant Superintendents, Railway Mail Service, and Inspectors of Sorting. The recommendations of the Committee have been generally accepted.

If the recruit is a man who has passed the Intermediate Examination, his starting pay will be that admissible from the beginning of the 3rd year of service under the appropriate time-scale, while if he is a graduate he will start on the pay admissible from the beginning of the 5th year of service under the same time-scale.

3. Date of giving effect to the new scales of pay.

The new scales of pay, together with the local allowances shown in paragraph 1 (1) will be introduced from the 1st December, 1919. From the arrears of pay which will become due under this order, the advance of one month's pay sanctioned under the orders passed by the Government of India in this Department on the 31st May, 1920, shall first be deducted. If the advance already drawn exceeds the total arrears due, if any, the balance shall be recovered from the monthly pay in three equal instalments.

Memorandum from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, Posts and Telegraphs Branch, to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, No. 74-Est. A./28, dated Simla, the 19th September, 1930.

SUBJECT.—Status of Diploma and Degree holders in Commerce.

For the purposes of the orders contained in this Department Memorandum No. EA-213/28, dated the 7th December, 1929, the Government of India have been pleased to order that the B. Com. degree of a University established by law should be recognised as equivalent to the B.A., or B.Sc., degree and that the Intermediate Examination in Commerce of such a university or of a statutory board of secondary and intermediate education (e.g., the Board of High School and Intermediate education, United Provinces) should likewise be regarded as equivalent to a university

Intermediate Examination in Arts or Science. It must be understood that the old Commercial Diploma Examination of the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, United Provinces, is equivalent to the present Intermediate Examination in Commerce of the said Board.

No. 74-Est. A./28.

A copy (in duplicate) is forwarded to the Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs, for information.

Memorandum from the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, Office of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, to all Postmasters-General, the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle, Karachi, No. 628-Ests. A./30, dated Simla, the 2nd May, 1932.

Fixation of number of graduates and "intermediates" recruited on special initial rates of pay.

With reference to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour memorandum No. EA-213/28, dated the 7th December, 1929, which was published in this office General Circular No. 20, dated the 29th September, 1930, the Director-General has been pleased to fix the number of graduates and "intermediates" recruited on the special initial rates of pay, viz., the 5th and 3rd stages respectively of the ordinary time-scales of the clerical cadre, in respect of each Circle during the period from the 1st April, 1929, to the 1st September, 1931, as shown in the attached statement. The concession of giving the special initial rates of pay to graduate and "intermediate" recruits was discontinued in accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 2 of this office letter No. 628-Ests. A./30, dated the 24th December, 1930, as supplemented by letter No. 628-Est. A/30/Staff, A, dated the 2nd September, 1931. An order of the Governor-General in Council on this subject will also be issued in due course.

2. The numbers shown in the attached statement include only those officials who were actually allowed to draw special initial rates of pay pending the settlement of the question regarding fixation of the number of recruits for each Circle. The names and other particulars of these officials should be intimated to the Audit Office concerned. No such concession in the matter of pay should now be allowed to officials who became graduates and "intermediates" while holding substantive posts in the Department, or to graduates and intermediates who received substantive posts in the ordinary clerical cadre, on and after the 24th December, 1930, the date from which the concession was stopped. All pending cases in this connection should be disposed of accordingly.

No. 628-Est. A/30, dated New Delhi, the 2nd May, 1932.

Copy, with copy of statement, is forwarded for information to :—

The Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi.

All Deputy Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs.

Copy also forwarded to the Director of Wireless, New Delhi, the Controller of Telegraph Stores, Alipore, Calcutta, the Superintendent of Telegraph Workshops, Alipore, Calcutta, and the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Alipore, Calcutta, for information.

Statement showing the number of graduates and "intermediates" recruited on higher initial rates of pay during the period from the 1st April, 1929 to the 1st September, 1931.

Circles.	No. of graduates recruited on higher initial rates of pay.				No. of 'intermediates' recruited on higher initial rate of pay.				Remarks.
	From 1-4-29 to 6-12-29.	From 7-12-29 to 31-3-30.	From year 1930-31.	Year 1-4-31 to 1-9-31.	From 1-4-29 to 6-12-29.	From 7-12-29 to 31-3-30.	Year 1930-31.	Year 1-4-31 to 1-9-31.	
F. M. G., B. & A. .	29	20	13	...	22	10	13	...	
„ B. & O. .	3	1	7	...	4	2	3	...	
„ Bombay .	9	2	10	...	1	...	7	...	
„ Burma .	3	1	1	...	4	...	1	...	
„ C. C. .	4	2	4	...	4	...	4	...	
„ Madras .	34	12	26	...	20	11	11	...	
„ Punjab .	12	5	2	...	13	6	7	...	
„ U. P. .	8	8	7	...	8	7	12	...	
D. P. & T., Karachi	1	...	..	...	3	...	2	..	

RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATES AND INTERMEDIATES IN THE TELEGRAPH BRANCH.

204. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to pages 361-362 and 20-21 of the Telegraph Review for October, 1934, and January, 1935, in which Director General's letter No. Es. A.-2/33 (g), dated the 27th August, 1934, and Union's reply No. R. P.-2/1, dated the 8th December, 1934, were published? If so, will Government be pleased to state:

- when Government's orders contained in Department of Industries, Labour Memorandum No. E. A.-213/28, dated the 7th December, 1929, were notified to different offices for fixation of the number of graduate and intermediate recruits in the Telegraph Branch, and whether office heads issued any notice to that effect to the staff, or recruited any of these classes of men, and, if so, when;
- whether it is a fact that after issue of Government's order in 1929, Director General's Memorandum No. Es. A./30, dated the 2nd May, 1932, is the first order to regulate the number of such recruits; and
- if so, the number of the employees in the Traffic Branch included in the list;
- what steps the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, took from 7th December, 1929, (the date of issue of Government's order) and 23rd December, 1930 (the date from which the concession was withdrawn) in giving effect to the concession;
- whether it is a fact that there was no direct recruitment of clerks in class II in the Central offices of the Traffic Branch of the Telegraphs;
- whether it is a fact that new class III was then the only channel of recruitment of clerks in the Traffic Branch; and
- how many graduates and intermediates were recruited in class III between the dates of introduction and withdrawal of the concession to the Traffic Branch?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Government have seen the communications referred to by the Honourable Member.

(a) As regards the first part of the question, the rules were notified for general information in Director General's General Circular No. 20, dated the 29th September, 1930. As regards the second part, the General Circulars of the Director General are circulated to the staff of all offices. As regards the remaining part, Government have no information.

(b) The Honourable Member apparently refers to the Director General's Memorandum No. 628-EsA/30, dated the 2nd May, 1932. If so, the reply is in the affirmative.

(c) Government have no precise information.

(d) During the period referred to the question of the issue of recruitment rules to determine the limitations subject to which the concession was to be extended and other cognate matters were under consideration.

(e), (f) and (g). Government have no information and do not propose to collect it. If any individual official has a grievance it is open to him to represent in the usual manner.

OPTION TO ELECT NEW LEAVE RULES TO THE STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

205. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: (a) Is it a fact that before any new rules are introduced, which adversely affect the service conditions of staff, an option to either continue to remain under the old rules or to elect the new rules is given to the staff already in service prior to the date from which it is intended to enforce the new rules?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state why on the North Western Railway, the option referred to above was not given to staff who were appointed between the 1st April, 1927, and the 22nd August, 1927, the latter date being the one on which the Agent, North Western Railway issued his very first instructions that declarations should be obtained from all staff appointed on and after the 1st April, 1927 that they would automatically come under the new State Railways Leave Rules from the date of their introduction?

(c) Is it a fact that on all the other State Railways these new Leave Rules have been enforced from the 1st April, 1930 and that no such declarations were obtained from the staff in service prior to the 1st April, 1930 on those Railways?

(d) Is it also a fact that all staff appointed prior to the 1st April, 1930 in the Accounts Branch of the North Western Railway have been allowed to remain under the Fundamental Leave Rules?

(e) Will Government please state the reason why this difference has been made between (i) the Accounts Department and the other Departments of this particular Railway and (ii) between the employees of the other State Railways and the employees of the North Western Railway?

(f) Do Government propose to give necessary options to the staff on the North Western Railway, who were made to execute declarations, referred to in part (b) above, before the introduction of these rules on the 1st April, 1930 and in particular to those who were appointed between the dates 1st April, 1927 and 22nd August, 1927?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) So far as pay is concerned, this is generally the case, but not necessarily so with regard to other conditions of service.

(b) and (f). I am obtaining certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The Revised Leave Rules apply to Railway servants who are appointed on or after 1st April, 1920, or who were appointed prior to that date on the condition that when Revised State Railway Leave Rules for employees are introduced they will be brought under them. As regards the second part of the question the Railway Board issued instructions on 1st September, 1928, to the effect that all subordinate staff who may be recruited on or after 1st September, 1928 should be required to sign a declaration to the effect that when the Revised Leave Rules for the railway establishment are promulgated they would be liable to be brought under their operation.

(d) No. The accounts staff appointed before the 1st April, 1929, were given the option of remaining under the Fundamental Rules if they had not been apprised of the fact that the Revised Leave Rules were applicable to them.

(e), (i). The difference is due to the fact that the staff of the old combined Audit and Accounts Department which was under the control of the Auditor General before the 1st April, 1929, were in fact not given a warning as to their liability to come under the New Leave Rules while staff in other departments of the North Western Railway were given such warning.

(ii) The difference is due to the fact that the staff on the different railways were warned on different dates as to their liability to come under the New Leave Rules.

LIEUTENANT COLONELCIES GIVEN IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY.

206. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will Government please state the number of Lieutenant Colonelcies given to men in the following Departments during the past ten years:-

Indian Unattached Lists,
 Indian Miscellaneous Lists,
 Indian Army Service Corps,
 Indian Army Ordnance Corps, and
 Indian Medical Department?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: If the Honourable Member is referring only to Departmental Officers, the numbers are:

India Unattached List, which includes the Indian Army Service Corps and Indian Army Ordnance Corps	8
India Miscellaneous List	4
Indian Medical Department	2

**ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE
EAST INDIAN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION.**

207. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the resolutions adopted at the first annual conference of the East Indian Railway Employees' Association held at Albert Hall, Calcutta, on the 25th August, 1934, which were sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

STAFF QUARTERS AND HOUSE ALLOWANCES, ETC., AT HOWRAH.

208. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement on the following points:

- (i) how many staff quarters are at Howrah both for Indian and European;
- (ii) how many are occupied by ministerial staff;
- (iii) how many are occupied by station staff;
- (iv) what is the total amount of house allowances paid each month to the station staff of Howrah in lieu of free quarters;
- (v) what amount is collected as rent from staff; and
- (vi) how many members of the staff, who are required to be on duty at any time, have to live in private quarters at distant places for want of Railway quarters?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am making enquiries from the Railway Administration and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

**FILLING UP OF THE POSTS OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS AND TRAIN
CONTROLLERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

209. Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many posts of Transportation Inspectors and Train Controllers were filled up on the East Indian Railway during the last two years?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if the cases of staff who worked in the capacities of Transportation Inspectors or who were demoted to lower grade on account of economy, were considered at the time of filling up the posts of Transportation Inspectors or Train Controllers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information, but are making inquiries and I will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

LAWS GOVERNING THE MARRIAGE AND INHERITANCE OF INDIAN BUDDHISTS.

210. U Thein Maung: With reference to the answer to the unstarred question No. 55, dated the 22nd February, 1935, will Government please state:

- (a) whether it is not a fact that what is referred to therein as the personal law of Indian Buddhists is really Hindu Law; and

- (b) whether Government are prepared to take action, legislative or otherwise, to remove the anomaly?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The Government of India think it most improbable that the position is as suggested by the Honourable Member but they cannot undertake the responsibility of pronouncing on a question which could not be authoritatively decided otherwise than by the Courts.

- (b) Government do not propose to take any action.

PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF BUDDHISTS IN INDIA.

211. U Thein Maung: (a) Will Government please state what action they have taken and what orders they have issued:

- (i) to protect the interests of Buddhists who are in minority in India, and

- (ii) to secure proper representation of Indian Buddhists in the services, local bodies and legislatures?

(b) If no such action has been taken and no such order has been issued, will Government please state whether representations therefor have not been received and why no action has been taken on them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). A representation has been received from the All-India Buddhist Conference urging consideration of all the matters referred to in part (a) (ii) of the question. So far as the representation of the Buddhist community in the services under the control of the Central Government is concerned, rules exist for the protection of the interests of the minority community as a whole and are applied in accordance with what appear to be the practical equities of the circumstances. As regards representation in the Central and the Provincial Legislature, the Honourable Member is aware that the whole question is under consideration in connection with the Government of India Bill. Representation in the local bodies is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council.

INCREASED EXPENDITURE OF THE AJMER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

212. Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is it a fact:

- (i) that in making provision for expenditure the Municipal Committee, Ajmer, has calculated to utilise all the savings, including the fixed deposits; and

- (ii) that the expenditure of the said Committee has increased enormously?

(b) If what is stated in part (a) above be correct, do Government propose to abolish the nominated committee and to appoint Colonel Howson as the administrator of the Ajmer Municipality during the period of supersession of the Ajmer Municipal Committee? If so, when? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The information asked for has been called for and a reply will be given to the House in due course.

AFFAIRS OF THE AJMER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

213. **Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Will Government please state whether it is a fact:

(i) that about Rs. 3,000 have been found short regarding the imprest money fund entrusted to Dr. S. N. Wasti after his discharge from the post of the Assistant Health Officer of the Ajmer Municipality; and

(ii) that Dr. Abdul Shakoor, the subordinate of Dr. Wasti, recently tendered his resignation after the discharge of the said Dr. Wasti and after the discovery of the missing of the said amount of about Rs. 3,000?

(b) If what is stated in part (a) above be correct, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter? }

(c) Is it a fact that a large number of relations of superseded members of the Municipal Committee, Ajmer, are still retained in the municipal service?

(d) Is it a fact that the relatives and friends of the newly nominated municipal committee members have been recently taken into the municipal service?

(e) Is it also a fact that a large number of persons discharged or removed from the Railway or Government services have been able to secure lucrative jobs in the service of the Ajmer Municipal Committee?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The information asked for has been called for and a reply will be given to the House in due course

WORKING TILL LATE HOURS OF THE DELHI HEAD POST OFFICE STAFF.

214. **Bhai Parma Nand:** Is it a fact that some of the staff of Delhi Head Post Office has to work till late hours? If so, are Government prepared to sanction some overtime allowance for them or sanction extra staff?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I deal with questions Nos. 214 and 215 together.

Government have no information. Copies of the questions are being sent to the Head of the Circle who is competent to deal with the matters referred to therein.

ALLEGED MISAPPROPRIATION AND FRAUD IN THE DELHI HEAD POST OFFICE.

215 **Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that several cases of misappropriation and fraud were brought to light in the year 1984 in Delhi Head Post Office and what steps were taken to punish the offenders to discourage their recurrence?

(b) Are Government prepared to order proper investigation to be made?

¹For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 214.

†216.

USE OF GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDINGS AS HIS RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS BY THE POST MASTER GENERAL AT SIMLA.

217. Bhai Parma Nand: Are Government aware of the fact that since Mr. Smith joined Simla General Post Office, Major A. Angelo, Post-master General, is using a portion of the General Post Office buildings as his residential quarters as well as office for the summer? If so, why?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Yes; on payment of rent and under the sanction of competent authority, as the arrangement is in the interests both of the officer concerned and of the department.

ILLNESS OF PROFESSOR JYOTISH CHANDRA GHOSE DETAINED IN THE DAMOH JAIL.

218. Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Professor Jyotish Chandra Ghose, M.A., now under detention under Regulation III of 1818 in Damoh Jail in the Central Provinces has been suffering from:

- (i) paralysis all over his body,
- (ii) palpitation of heart,
- (iii) diabetes, and
- (iv) troubles arising from affectation of lungs?
- (b) What is the present age of Professor Ghose?
- (c) What is the total period of his detention?
- (d) What is the period of such detention and under what law?
- (e) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of releasing him? If not, are Government prepared to:
 - (i) make suitable arrangement for his diet, and
 - (ii) allow him to see his old mother who is now in a dying condition and whose only son Professor Ghose is?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) No. On the contrary, the State Prisoner's health is reported to be satisfactory.

(b) About 49 years.

(c) and (d). He has been detained under Regulation III of 1818 since the 4th December, 1931.

(e) (i). The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, I have no information to suggest that the arrangements for diet are not suitable.

(e) (ii). The state prisoner has not, so far as I am aware, made any request in this matter.

^aThis question was withdrawn by the questioner

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

ARRESTS IN CALCUTTA OF PROMINENT WORKERS CONNECTED WITH THE ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has received a notice from Prof. N. G. Ranga that he proposes to ask for leave to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely:

"The policy underlying the raids in Calcutta on the offices of the various Labour, Peasants and Socialists organizations, including the Railway Workers Union, and arrests of prominent workers, connected with the All-India Trade Union Congress."

The Chair has to inquire whether any Honourable Member has any objection to this motion.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Yes, Sir, I oppose this motion on a point of order. My submission to you is this. The motion, as it has been drafted, a copy of which is with me, relates to the policy underlying the raids in Calcutta on the offices of the various Labour, Peasants and Socialist Organizations. In so far as the policy is concerned, it is not a matter of very recent occurrence. As a matter of fact, similar raids were carried out in the Punjab, and the notification in the Punjab is dated the 10th September, 1934. Similar action was taken in Bihar in September 1934, and also in Bombay on the 24th September, 1934. My first point is, in so far as the policy is concerned, it is not a matter of recent occurrence. My second point is this. This is a matter which really ought to be debated in the local Provincial Council which is now sitting. Further, this is a matter on which we have got no information at all, except that certain offices have been declared to be illegal, and, I would draw your attention, Sir, to two rulings which will be found in this Book "A Selection from the Decisions from the Chair". The first ruling will be found at page 17. It is Ruling No. 19, and I propose to read it to the House:

"On Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's motion for adjournment to discuss the attitude of Government in relation to an Akali Jatha which was proceeding to Janto, which was ruled out on the same ground as the motion of the 25th February, 1924, Dr. H. S. Gour contended that as the Jatha was still in British territory the former ruling did not apply, and Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha, quoting from May's Parliamentary Practice, pointed out that in doubtful cases the Speaker referred the matter to the judgment of the House

The President ruled: The Honourable Member does not seem to be aware that in the House of Commons the maintenance of order rests on the close association between the House and the Chair and that the House has certain duties and the Chair has certain duties. Under our Rules and Standing Orders, the entire responsibility of maintaining order and interpreting the Rules and Standing Orders, unfortunately rests with the Chair. I advise the Honourable Member to read the book he is looking at.

I address myself now to the point raised by Dr. Gour. In so far as he informs the Assembly that a matter is now proceeding in British territory, he is drawing attention to something which has not arisen, and if the departure of the Jatha from Amritsar were a matter on which public opinion was likely to attach great importance and to anticipate results, the place in which in the first instance it should have been raised was the Punjab Legislative Council. For the Government of the Punjab is in the first instance responsible for law and order within the limits of the province."

I would draw your particular attention to the last sentence, namely:

"For the Government of the Punjab is in the first instance responsible for law and order within the limits of the province."

The other ruling which I wish to read without comment is No. 28, at page 29 of the same book:

"On the 16th July, 1930, Mr. Nehal Singh sought to move the adjournment of the House to discuss the beating of Congress volunteers by the police on the Simla Mall. Mr. Haig, speaking on behalf of Government, objected on the ground that the matter was not of sufficient public importance and suggested that the matter could be more conveniently dealt with by question and answer.

The President upholding the objection ruled as follows :

I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Dr. Nand Lal, that at this stage we need not go into the details of the case but should confine ourselves only to the constitutional issue of the motion before the House.

The matter to which this Motion relates is, no doubt, a definite one, and also a matter of recent occurrence. But the mere fact of its being definite and of recent occurrence is not sufficient for allowing a discussion on the motion. It must also be shown that it is 'urgent' and of 'public importance'."

The action of 'pushing' and 'beating', etc.—I am not reading, Sir, this portion, because I am not going to argue that this matter is of no public importance, but I will read the next paragraph:

"Motions for adjournment are meant for obtaining an immediate debate on grave and serious matters, which cannot otherwise be immediately and effectively dealt with, and the very object of such motions will be lost if they are permitted to assume the character of an ordinary course of action of every day occurrence. 'The formal moving of the adjournment of the House as a tactical method of introducing new matter into the day's work has during the nineteenth century been gradually but steadily discouraged by the rules of the House', says Joseph Redlich in his *Procedure of the House of Commons*. Further on, the same author says, 'By the present rules such a motion for adjournment can only be permitted in case of special urgency'; and I am anxious that the same principle should be established in this House. 'The Speaker has repeatedly refused to allow a Member to move the adjournment of the House', says Joseph Redlich, 'on the ground that the matter proposed to be brought up by him was obviously not important or not urgent'."

Then, the next paragraph reads:

"Moreover, distinction should also be drawn between matters to be discussed in this House and the matters to be discussed in the Provincial Councils, and to my mind, it would be too much interference on the part of this House as regards provincial affairs if matters for which Provincial Governments are responsible are debated in this House by means of the extra-ordinary method of motions for adjournment. It would not be right and proper to condemn the provincial executive behind their backs in a place where they cannot defend, explain or justify their conduct. The matter referred to in this motion is certainly a provincial matter, which is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council."

Now, Sir, if I may stop there for one second, so far as these raids are concerned, the position will be the same here today, because there is no one here from the Bengal Government to explain or defend or justify the conduct of the Government, nor are we in a position to say what has happened there. In so far as it is said that the Honourable Member wants to discuss the policy underlying the raids, then, Sir, no new policy has been laid down. That is the only matter which he wants to discuss. As a matter of fact, the proposals of the Bengal Government were never placed before us. They have acted on the old policy, and as I showed the

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

House when I began, the policy had been acted upon in September, in August and in October, 1934, in the different provinces. I submit, Sir, that the Bengal Legislative Council is now in session, and it is not desirable that we should discuss this question here and raise a debate on which we shall be able to give no information to the House,

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I am glad to notice that the Honourable Member has admitted the fact that this is a matter of public importance and of recent occurrence. ("No, no," from Official Benches.) His objection is only on the point that the policy is not of recent occurrence or of recent urgency. But in view of the fact that the Honourable the Home Member stated only yesterday that the Government of India had been following, ever since the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement, a policy of conciliation and a policy of peace, and that they had given up their policy of repression and did not propose to take to a further policy of repression again, it is rather strange that an incident like this should have been allowed to happen.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is only to state his point.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And that is why I consider that this House has a right to take up this matter as a matter of further execution of that repressive policy, according to which associations can be banned, persons can be imprisoned and offices can be raided. Merely because certain raids were allowed to be made with impunity by the Government of the Punjab and other Provincial Governments in 1934, it does not follow that this House should allow these unhappy happenings to go on without taking cognisance of them and without trying to censure this Government for that repressive policy.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Which Government?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Again, Sir, the Honourable the Law Member maintains that this is entirely a matter for the Local Governments, that the Bengal Government is specially interested in it and can be expected to look after itself and can be expected to carry out its laws properly and sensibly, and, therefore, if this House were to try now to discuss that matter, it would be passing an *ex parte* decree. But he does not seem to realise that this Assembly has taken advantage of the procedure that I wish the House to take now, on several other occasions when similar happenings had happened. When, in 1927, there was the Bengal Nagpur Railway strike, and, again, in 1928, when there was the Bengal Nagpur Railway lock-out, there were adjournment motions moved in this House and they were allowed by the then President. They were discussed and the Government policy was then attempted to be censured. Again, this is a central matter. Here are a number of associations which are of an all-India significance. There is the Trade Union Congress, the Railway Workers' Association and several other workers' associations, there is the Railway Workers' Union, the R. M. S. Union, the I. G. N. Workers' Union and several others. Labour is a central subject, and, under the Trade Disputes Act, the Government of India alone are competent to

administer it, and, as such, I maintain that this raiding of a number of labour associations of all-India importance and arresting a number of labour leaders and also this declaring unlawful of a number of labour associations is a matter of central importance, a matter of all-India importance. It will affect the railways and their revenues. If these Railwaymen's Unions continue to be banned like this and if the railwaymen's leaders continue to be arrested and continue to be kept under lock-up, certainly the peace of the minds of the railwaymen will be disturbed and the railways will have to face some difficulty and may have to face some strike or some other sympathetic action. Therefore, I consider this to be a matter of all-India importance, a matter of extremely intimate interest to the railways.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has asked the Honourable Member only to state his point. Any other point?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a matter of recent occurrence, because it was only the day before yesterday that these raids were effected by the Government of Bengal and these 30 persons of all-India importance were imprisoned and 13 well known organisations of intimate interest to workers and peasants were banned. I, therefore, maintain that this adjournment motion is entirely in order. Lastly, this action of the Bengal Government affects very seriously the freedom of association of Indians in this country, the freedom of association specially of trade unionists and workers in this country and also of socialists. I am sure that if we were to follow the line of action proposed by the Honourable the Law Member, namely, that everything that is being done in this direction by Local Governments ought not to be taken up and should not be taken up by this House merely because it is provincial. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is argument. The Chair asked the Honourable Member only to mention his points on this question of order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I, therefore, suggest that the precedents that the Honourable the Law Member has quoted and the rulings that he has cited do not really apply to this particular matter, and this motion ought to be allowed to be taken up by the House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I say a word about this point of order? I am really sorry to find that recently the Government of India are raising points of order which are intended to restrict the freedom of discussion in this House. I am a believer and a very firm believer in constitutional and parliamentary methods. If objections are to be taken to free discussion of matters in which the whole country is interested, in which this Legislature is interested, it is much better to shut up the Legislatures. "(Hear, hear from the Congress Party Benches)"

An Honourable Member: Is that the point of order?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better restrict himself to the point of order that has been raised.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am coming to the points under discussion. The Honourable Member does not deny the fact that this is a definite matter. He does not deny that this is a matter of recent occurrence. . . .

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He does.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He cannot deny that the raids have taken place very recently. The only objection that he takes is a very technical one. He objects to the word "policy". If that is the objection, I am sure, you will permit my Honourable friend to re-word his motion for adjournment. But, at the same time, I want to place before you this consideration. These raids are made under a central legislation, the legislation under which these raids are made is not a provincial legislation. Secondly, Government cannot deny the fact that this campaign against communism is a campaign made under the control and direction of the Government of India. What is the earthly use, then. . . . (Interruption by Sir Cowasji Jehangir.) Mr. President, I do not want to be interrupted by the Honourable Baronet on this matter. I am not making a speech. When I make a speech on the motion for adjournment, then he can certainly interrupt me. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really making a speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My first point is this, that the legislation is a central legislation. The policy is a central policy, the control is a central control. ("No, no," from Official Benches.) In these circumstances, it is much better that this question should be discussed here than in the local Legislative Council.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member suggest that this is a Central subject?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is exactly what I am suggesting—that these raids have taken place in the different provinces as a part of the policy laid down by the Government of India, and the Government of India are controlling this movement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When was that policy laid down?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That policy might have been laid down some time ago, but the event has taken place very recently. If it is a technical objection that the Honourable the Mover uses the word "policy", I suggest to you that you should permit this discussion as it is the policy of the Central Government and you should permit the Honourable Member to change the word in his notice. I hope that the Government will not shrink discussion on this matter.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq (Bakarganj *cum* Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): On a point of information, Sir. The Honourable the Law Member said that the Bengal Legislative Council is sitting and that the matter may be discussed there. I may remind him that the Council is not sitting today. Tomorrow is Sunday and by the time the Council meets again the matter will have lost its urgency.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I want to put a question to the Honourable the Law Member. I do not fully understand his position. Have the Government of India laid down any policy for raiding offices and institutions like these and declaring them unlawful? If so, when? If not, then would I be wrong in concluding that no such policy was ever enunciated by them previously and that these raids are not in accordance with any policy prescribed by them?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The policy initiated is to be found in the different notifications regarding certain associations which, in the opinion of the Local Government, would come within the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908. Against them the Act was put into operation. There is no question of our directing or raiding. Whatever follows, follows from the Act being put into operation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards the point of order raised, the first point that has been raised by the Honourable the Leader of the House is that the motion wants to raise a question of policy which was laid down sometime ago, and, therefore, it cannot be said to be a matter of recent occurrence. The Honourable Member who has given notice of this motion has not informed the House when that policy was laid down, but the Honourable the Leader of the House says that there have been raids of a similar character some time ago in the Punjab and in some other provinces in pursuance of the same policy. It has been suggested by Mr. Joshi that permission may be given to delete the word "policy", so that the mere occurrence may be discussed in this House, but, so far as the Chair understands, the intention of the Mover is to discuss the policy in pursuance of which these raids have taken place and the particular occurrences which happened during those raids. Therefore, the Chair holds that on an adjournment motion, the policy which has been pursued for sometime past cannot be discussed. The Chair might just as well say one word as regards the other objection raised, that it is really a matter of provincial concern, and, therefore, this Legislature is not the proper forum in which an adjournment motion of this character can be discussed. As regards that, the Chair has gone through the rulings and practice and it finds that there is really no uniformity. The Chair does not think that, having regard to its ruling on the one question, it should give any ruling upon the other question. The point regarding it, the Chair may mention, really is whether the President has been given any power to disallow a motion for adjournment on the ground that it is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council. That power has been expressly conferred on the Governor General himself, but, as the Chair has said, there are different rulings on this question and the practice has also not been uniform. The Chair, therefore, does not decide that point now. The Chair rules, the motion is not in order upon the first point raised.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement of the probable course of Government business in the week beginning Monday, the 11th March.

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

That day and Tuesday, the 12th, are allotted for the completion of the Voting of Demands for Grants. On Wednesday, the 13th, motions will be moved for the election of members to the following:

- (1) Central Advisory Council for Railways;
- (2) Committee on Public Accounts;
- (3) Standing Committee for Roads for the financial year 1935-36;
- (4) Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and its Governing Body; and
- (5) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Thereafter, the Honourable the Finance Member will move that the Finance Bill be taken into consideration, and it is hoped that the debate on this motion will be concluded on Friday, the 15th. If this hope is fulfilled, Government will give time to Sir Cowasji Jehangir to move a motion agreeing to the Resolution of the Council of State to appoint a Joint Committee on the Bill to amend the law relating to marriage and divorce among Parsis.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): As regards the statement just now made by the Leader of the House, I have to bring to your notice that Friday is a fasting day for Haj Muslims. Therefore, it should be declared a holiday. That is a very important day, and we cannot sit on that day. No Muslim will sit here, including yourself.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, your predecessor gave a ruling that all the days which are observed as holidays in the Delhi Province will be observed as holidays in the Assembly.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am not standing in the way of any of my Muslim friends from observing that as a holiday, but the gazetted holiday is Saturday and that has been declared as such in the province of Delhi.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Saturday is *Id* day and Friday is a fasting day in Mecca.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Will my Honourable friend allow me a little time to make inquiry into that matter?

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The discussion of the budget demands will now be resumed. According to the announcement the Chair made last evening, Babu Baijnath Bajoria is called upon to move his motion.

(The Honourable Member was absent.)

Mr Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim has got cut motions Nos. 44 and 45 under this demand. Does the Honourable Member wish to move them?

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim (Chittagong Division: Muhammadan Rural): No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): We go on then to demand No. 17. Does U Thein Maung want to move his motion No. 83?

U Thein Maung, (Burma: Non-European): No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim. Does the Honourable Member wish to move his cut-motions under this demand?

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: I want to say, Sir, that I have got motions practically under all the Demands, and as my constituency wants me to bring these matters to the notice of the Government, if you will kindly permit, I should first like to move my cut motion under Demand No. 79. This is the motion which I want to speak on first.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But the Chair is now asking the Honourable Member whether he wishes to move his motions under Demand No. 17?

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No. 18?

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): U Thein Maung. Is the Honourable Member moving his motion?

U Thein Maung: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Demand No. 19. (No Honourable Member moved any motion under this Demand, neither under Demand Nos. 21 to 22.) Demand No. 23. Sir James Grigg.

DEMAND NO. 23—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES).

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,55,95,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of the 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,55,95,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of the 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

Grievances of the Inferior Services.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. President, my position of being an unattached Member placed me this morning at a great disadvantage. (Laughter.) Till yesterday afternoon I thought that my motion would come up for discussion the morning, but when I went home I got a notice from the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly pointing out a certain order in which the motions for cuts will be taken. From that list, Sir, I never thought I would get any opportunity this morning to move any motion, but fortune has favoured me, and I propose to make the best use of the opportunity which has been afforded to me. Mr. President, I am asking this House to reduce the demand under the Posts and Telegraphs Department by Rs. 100 in order to lodge a protest against a certain policy which this Department, along with other Departments, is following in the matter of the treatment of their lowest class of servants. In this Department, Sir, there are some people who are considered to belong to the "superior" service, some people are considered to belong to the "subordinate" service and there are some people who belong to what are known as the "inferior" service. I propose to speak this morning on the position of the inferior services in this Department, and the one complaint, which I propose to place before the Legislature on behalf of them, is the old complaint regarding the pensions of the inferior services.

Sir, people who belong to the inferior services of the Department have been given the small pension of four rupees a month since I do not know for how many years; perhaps if one goes back and digs into the old records of the Government of India, he will find that these pension rules were made about the year 1860. At that time, this maximum rate of Rs. 4 was fixed. At that time the monthly salaries paid to these people were small, perhaps some people may not have been getting more than Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 monthly and it was quite natural at that time that the monthly pensions paid to these people should have been fixed at the small maximum figure of Rs. 4 a month.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): I am sorry to interrupt my Honourable friend. I would venture to ask your ruling, Sir, whether he is in order in discussing this matter on this particular grant, as the question of pensions of inferior services is one which is common to all Departments of the Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Because a particular grievance is common to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and other Departments, the Chair does not think that is a sufficient reason for disallowing a discussion on a motion like this.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I thank you very much for permitting me to place before you this great grievance of the people belonging to the inferior services of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. Sir, my remarks refer to the Postal Department for the present. For the present, if my remarks are also applicable to other Departments, they apply to other Departments

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): For my own information, does it really apply to all Departments?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes, to all Departments. Sir, in the Government of India, there are people belonging to superior service who get a fixed pension of £1,000 a year. Of course, they are heaven-born people and we cannot compare the people belonging to the Indian Civil Service and the people belonging to the inferior services. Then, Sir, there are the subordinate services in which people generally get a pension equal to one half of their salaries, but in the case of people belonging to the inferior services, they do not get a pension equal to even half their salaries: they get a fixed pension of a maximum of Rs. 4,—which has been increased, I think, by a rupee or two as a temporary measure,—but their pension is not anywhere near one-half their salaries and they then suffer under another disadvantage. In the case of the subordinate services, they can get a proportionate pension after ten years' service, and, in the case of the superior services, they can get a proportionate pension after one year's service.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is not so, Sir. There is no proportionate pension after one year's service.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Then, may I ask what the rule is?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot tell the Honourable Member definitely after what period of service a proportionate pension is given, but I can state very definitely that it is not given after one year's service.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I say that members belonging to the superior services have got the right to retire at any moment they like and they can get proportionate pension.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I must definitely contradict my Honourable friend. His statement is absolutely inaccurate. No members of any service can get a proportionate pension after a service of one year. They can retire at any moment they like. It is possible they can get a gratuity, but I very much doubt whether even a gratuity is given after one year's service. I do most emphatically state that no members of any service can get a proportionate pension after one year's service.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The truth is gradually coming out. The Honourable Member admits that they may be getting some gratuity. For my purpose, it is the same whether it is called pension or gratuity. They do get some money after retirement. What does it matter whether you call a certain amount of money given to people as pension or a certain amount of money as gratuity. The fact remains that the Government care for the superior services to such an extent that even if a man retires at any moment he likes, he is provided with some money in the shape of gratuity.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That, again, is not correct. An officer of the superior services gets a gratuity under certain special conditions, but it is not true that every officer of the superior services who retires at any given moment gets a gratuity.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member may protest and that very hard. At the same time, he cannot deny the fact that a man belonging to the superior services gets superior privileges as regards the provision against retirement. Let him say so. If he can contradict that statement, let my Honourable friend get up and say that he has not made a better provision against old age and retirement for superior services as against inferior services.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I never wish to contradict my Honourable friend on any statement he makes which is accurate

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I have not made any such statement. The Honourable Member has not yet made any definite statement as regards the rules which provide for gratuity or pension to men belonging to the superior services.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhaminadan Urban):
Or allowances.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not wish to waste my time, as I have to make a few important points. The point is that people belonging to the subordinate services get pension equal to half their salary, and, secondly, they also get proportionate pension after ten years' service. It is useless to expect me to read out all the pension rules within the 15 minutes allotted to me. I, therefore, make a general statement that the men belonging to subordinate services get pension equal to half their salaries and they generally get a proportionate pension after a service of ten years retirement. This privilege is denied to people belonging to inferior services. My claim is that if there are any people who deserve better pension rules, it is the people belonging to the inferior services. They get small salaries and it is on account of that fact that they cannot save any money while in service and so some provision after their retirement is all the more necessary than in the case of men belonging to superior or subordinate service. Unfortunately, Sir, this question has not been taken up by the Government at all. Since the time I came to this Legislature, myself and several other Members have been drawing the attention of the Government of India to this injustice. The reply given is not that they do not deserve better; they cannot say so. Nobody can say that these inferior servants really do not deserve a little better pension rules than the pension rules given to the superior services or subordinate services. Therefore, they do not deny the fact that it is necessary to consider. For more than 14 years this question is being considered, and the argument for not doing justice to these inferior service people is want of money. But, Sir, since I drew the attention of the Government of India and since their attention was drawn by other Members, palaces were built in New Delhi. I have seen them rising before my eyes, crores and crores of rupees were spent on the palace for the Governor General, palace for the officers of the Secretariat, palaces for the Members of the Executive Council and the services, palaces for the Members of the Legislature. We have created a New Delhi.—a heaven on earth. We find money for all these. During these 14 years however, we have not found money for increasing the pension of the inferior services by a few rupees. Might I, Sir, ask the Honourable Member in charge as to when he is going to find money for this? I hope the Government of India

will take this matter seriously into their consideration. It is not true that they do not have the money for increasing the pensions. They have the money, but they spend it for other purposes. I have shown that even in this very budget money has been spent in improving the gardens, in renewing aeroplanes and in buying furniture, and, if money could be found for such purposes, I hold there is money enough for increasing the pensions of the men belonging to the inferior services. What is wanted is the will, and I want the Government of India to make up their minds to do justice to the people belonging to this service.

May I say, Sir, a word to the men who are sitting to my left. These people belonging to inferior service have been serving the men who are sitting to my left. I want one of them to stand up in his place and say a word in favour of these inferior servants. These servants have served them honestly, they have served them most industriously and I would like some one among them to rise and speak a word in favour of the men who have given their life service for them. The other day, Sir, one of the Honourable Members sitting to my left got up in his seat and proffered fulsome praise to the Honourable the Finance Member for restoring the salary cut to the men belonging to the superior services. May I ask that some other man in that service will get up today and say a word. It is wrong for them to say that they do not take part in these discussions for fear of breach of service discipline. If service discipline does not come in the way of your offering fulsome praise to the Honourable the Finance Member for restoring the wage cut, surely there will be no breach of discipline if one of them gets up in his place and says whether these people belonging to the inferior services deserve better pension or not. I would like one of them to get up. It is wrong for them to expect me to speak on behalf of the people who have given them their life service. I hope, Sir, whatever may be the attitude of the Government Benches, whether they care to appreciate the services of the people who have served them faithfully or not, I want the Legislature to give one promise, one pledge. Whatever may have been the pledges given by the Government to the superior services, to the income-tax payers, to the payers of surcharges, I would like the Legislature to give one pledge to the men belonging to the inferior services, and that pledge is that, before next year, the pensions of the inferior services will be increased. Sir, that is the meaning of the motion which I have made and that will be the meaning if this motion is carried. The mandate which I want the House to give to the Government is that pensions of the men belonging to the inferior services shall be raised before the end of the year. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Sir, I am glad that my Honourable friend, Mr Joshi, has got the chance of moving this cut this morning. I am also glad that his disappointment has been removed. I am also grateful to him for placing this motion before the House to consider about the grievances of the postal employees, and I endorse my views entirely on the side of my Honourable friend. I want to confine myself to the grievances of the postal employees with which I am associated and very closely associated.

[Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.]

Year after year we have been hearing of retrenchments on a vigorous scale. But the simple figure shows that for the current year the budget estimate for the retrenched personnel was 3 lakhs and 59 thousand, whereas, in the revised estimate, the figure has risen to 11 lakhs and 90 thousand. That clearly indicates how the retrenchment policy is being pursued vigorously and with a vengeance. Now, Sir, I have gathered from discussions here that these retrenchment measures were only confined to the subordinate services. A large number of clerks, postmen and subordinate officers have been retrenched in the post offices as well as in the R. M. S. Another thing is that this retrenchment was not confined to persons of 30 years' service, and above, but also included persons with five or six years' service. I ask in all humility whether it was a fair thing to do, because it is evident that these people first accepted and entered Government service with great hopes in their hearts, and without any rhyme or reason they have been asked to go. I believe it has affected the efficiency of the administration itself and I do not understand why Government pursue the policy of retrenchment on those lines. But this same policy was not adopted in the case of the Telegraph Department. There it was suggested that reductions will be made only on the occurrence of vacancies, and I appeal to the Honourable Member that a similar policy should also be adopted in the case of the post office.

Then, I will come to the traffic inspectors. One thing I may point out here, and that is that Government are pursuing the policy of retrenchment where there is reduction of traffic. But they are not pursuing the same policy where there is increase of traffic. As a matter of fact, in the Calcutta General Post Office, and in other places, in the money order and savings bank department, and in other departments, there has been a regular increase of work, and no sufficient hands have been provided, with the result that the work is suffering. Now, in dealing with the officers of the Postal Department, they have reduced only 34 Postal Superintendents and one Deputy Post Master General against 12 thousand subordinate employees. What is this proportion? A complaint was made last year about drastic reductions in selection grade posts in many offices of Calcutta and in the General Post Office in particular. I asked Sir Thomas Ryan to leniently consider the question of these postal inspectors, and, as a matter of fact, I am glad that our present Director General, my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, has made some concrete suggestions on that. He also suggested that some supervising staff is necessary for the good management of the work and he suggested that one supervisor should be maintained for five savings bank clerks, one for six money order clerks, and one for seven or eight registration and parcel clerks: and I will be very glad if this suggestion is translated into action.

Then, I want to draw the attention of the Director General to the system which is going to be introduced to fill the posts of town inspectors. I am told the Department contemplates to fix a maximum age limit of 40 years. That will really stop the chances of other employees, who are senior in service, but they will thus get no remuneration for their services. This is a matter of vital concern, because, if you fix the age limit at 40 years, many senior officers, who are senior and able people, will not get any chance. Why should you stop them? You should make a provision which will be applicable only in the case of efficiency, and let the senior people who have served with ability and efficiency be given a

chance in this matter. I am told that in Bombay and Calcutta, some junior men have been appointed as town inspectors. I think this ought to be stopped; and I am informed that people attached to the administrative offices of the officials there get preference over other senior men. This is not fair; those who are senior and able officers ought to get a better chance, and I think this policy should be accepted.

Another thing that I will bring to your notice is about the administration of the higher grades. In my own district of Mymensingh, there are 66 sub-offices and 210 branch offices, but there is only one Postal Superintendent who is conducting the work. Also in the Dacca Division, there are about 98 sub-offices and 250 branch offices, but there is only one Postal Superintendent. But in the Assam Circle, where there are only 24 sub-offices and 150 branch offices, they are also controlled by one Superintendent. So the Department has fixed some data according to which every clerk must perform some amount of equal duty; but probably it is not applicable in the case of higher officers. In dealing with these things, they seem to have adopted the dictum, "Head, I win; tails, you lose".

Now, I shall come to the Telegraph Engineering Department. Last year, in my observations in connection with the general discussion of the budget, I concentrated my whole attention on these postal matters, and I raised the question of the extravagance of the Telegraph Engineering Department. I can say frankly that that branch is a branch of vested interests. It maintains as many as 166 officers, all drawing high salaries, against 490 officers for the whole department. It has got one Chief Engineer drawing Rs. 3,000 a month, and, over and above that, he gets his allowances. It has also got five Directors of Telegraph Engineering drawing a pay from Rs. 1,750 to Rs. 2,150. There are three branches of Telegraph Engineering, namely, the General Department, the Telephone Department and the Radio Department. In the General Department, there are 129 officers costing Rs. 10 lakhs and 99 thousand for pay only; in the Telephone Department, there are 11 officers getting a salary of Rs. 71,000 per year as pay; and, in the Radio Department, there are 26 officers who get Rs. one lakh and 64 thousand. The following figures for the Radio Branch will prove interesting. These 26 officers carry a salary of Rs. one lakh and 64 thousand, whereas 237 subordinates carry a salary of Rs. 4,68,700. Besides these, the officers also get their house-rent allowances, passage money and other expenses. I have excluded the Controller of Stores from consideration, otherwise the expenditure would have been much more. I raised this question of extravagance last year and no response was made after that. The Director General replied that there may be a fall in traffic, but the wires of the Department and the instruments have to be maintained, and so it is not reasonable to suggest that there should be retrenchments in the Engineering Branch like this. I have made inquiries as to how many are supervising the wires and other requisities, and I have found that there are 151 engineering supervisors, 444 line inspectors, 3,151 line men, looking into the telegraph lines. Besides, that, there are 86 electrical supervisors and 135 mistries and mechanics to look into the instruments. Is it necessary that besides these things there should be a number of Directors of Telegraph Engineering to look into the matter? As a matter of fact, they do this work very rarely. To my mind, this maintenance of a huge staff is absolutely detrimental to the interests of the Indian tax-payer. I make a suggestion which I hope will be accepted by the Honourable Member, and it is this.

[Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.]

If these five Directors of Telegraph Engineering are dispensed with, it will give a saving of Rs. 1,16,000; and, similarly, if the posts of these 22 assistant engineers are abolished, it would result in a saving of another Rs. 1,12,000. The Telegraph Establishment Committee also made a similar suggestion, but it is a pity that the Government do not pay any attention to this recommendation of that Committee. In this House, a number of Committees are formed and a number of suggestions are made by these Committees, but it is a pity that, whenever any concrete and reasonable suggestions are made, they are not accepted by the Government, in spite of the fact that the suggestions are reasonable. I want to ask if there have been any suggestions for amalgamating these offices. As a matter of fact, my information is that even in London there has been amalgamation of engineering supervisors. Why should not a similar policy be adopted here? I think it is high time for the Government to see that the interests of the lower grade officers, who are paid much less than the higher grade officers, are properly looked after; and if they are not looked after properly, there will be great dissatisfaction which will stand in the way of proper administration. I appeal to the Honourable Member that he will make it a point to look into the grievances which I have just now set out and that he will redress them, so that there may be peace and amity in the whole of the administrative services. With these words, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, perhaps I may be allowed to intervene now for one minute to deal with the speech of Mr. Joshi; and, before I do that, I must apologise for not having been in my place to listen to that speech: but urgent business called me elsewhere. I have, however, informed myself as to the purport of his remarks. This problem of the pensions of the lower paid Government servants is one which has been brought actively to my attention now for the first time. I understand that the attitude of the Government in the past has been that there is an undoubted grievance, but that it has been impossible to meet it in the past adequately—something has been done to meet it, but not as much as the advocates of a change would wish—because of financial stringency. The budget proposals which I presented to the House a few days ago will at any rate have shown that we are past the worst of the financial stringency, and, therefore, Government can no longer fall back upon the argument that there is no money to make this change. I think, therefore, that Government owe it to so stalwart and invariable a supporter as Mr. Joshi (Laughter) that I should promise him that Government will take up this question and consider it very carefully and sympathetically and with every desire to do something to meet the grievance which has been admitted for some time.

Mr. V. V. Giri (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to make a few observations with regard to the subject matter under discussion. I would first like to refer to the retrenchment policy adopted in the Postal Department. I find that, during the last few years, retrenchment has occurred and nearly 12,000 posts have been abolished. The figures are, post office clerks 2,706, postmen 5,155, sorters 397, mail runners, etc., 3,213, and inferior servants 1,009. I am told that the number of postmasters retrenched is nearly 1,500. I desire to state that,

in these days of economic stress and starvation, the poor workers are much affected by the policy of retrenchment adopted by the Government of India

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair may remind the Honourable Member that the Honourable the Mover confined himself to the question of pensions.

Mr. V. V. Giri: If such is the case, I have nothing more to add.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to a point of order: have you, Sir, ruled that our remarks can only be confined to the question of pensions of the Postal Department? I ask this, because, I believe, the motion under discussion refers to all the grievances of the Postal Department?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) As regards the point of order, so far as the motion is printed on the Order Paper, "Grievances of the postal department" it is put in general terms, and, therefore, the Chair does not wish to rule it out of order as entirely irrelevant. The Chair merely wanted to point out to the House and to the Honourable Mr Giri that one specific grievance was mooted by the Honourable the Mover of the motion and, therefore, the Chair thought perhaps it would be more convenient to the House if that specific motion was dealt with under this head; but the Chair does not rule out any other grievance being discussed

Mr. V. V. Giri: I, therefore, desire to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge of Labour and Industries that he should look into this matter and see that no poor worker is retrenched: the policy of the Department should be to absorb the workers. Recently there was a Committee, presided over by an officer of the Department, named Mr. Pasricha, and that Committee's report is about to be published. I request the Honourable Member in charge of the Department to give the fullest opportunity to the workers and their unions to express their views and put forward constructive proposals. I also desire to suggest to the Department that, so far as postal workers and their organisations are concerned, they should have half-yearly meetings, year after year, so that the representatives of the workers can meet the Honourable Member or the superior officers and discuss, from time to time, the grievances relating to the workers. I hope the suggestions that have been made by me will be accepted by the Honourable Member. I do not think I have got anything more to say.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this motion, and, in doing so, I am glad I have your ruling allowing me to criticise grievances other than pensions. As President of a large postal employees' union which embraces Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam I have come into close contact with the men with whom I have sat for hours and discussed their grievances, and so the criticisms I am making today are not done in any hostile or carping spirit. My desire is to ask the head of the Department and the Honourable Member in charge to review the entire situation sympathetically. The question of pensions my friend, Mr. Joshi, has very ably presented to the House. All I can

[Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney.]

do is to support it in its entirety. I am very glad to have had the assurance of the Honourable the Finance Member that the matter would receive his sympathetic consideration, and with that, Sir, I must pass on to certain other matters.

There is one matter, Sir, that I should like to bring to the notice of the head of the Department who, I know, since he assumed office, has given it his most careful and sympathetic attention. I pay him no empty tribute when I say that he is seriously giving his attention to these matters. But, there is such a thing as comparative official expediency and urgency, or priority, and so, I am afraid this question of pensions to which I am referring may not receive the early attention it merits and be delayed. Sir, I had the honour of leading a deputation of postal employees before the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs when I represented among other matters, a matter relating to provincial postal recruitment. Sir, there is, as you know, with the advent of provincialisation and autonomy of the provinces, a universal cry in this country of "Bengal for Bengalis", "Bihar for Biharis", and so on. Now, much as this will satisfy the residents and inhabitants of Bengal and other provinces, it certainly has a very unfair effect on certain Government servants. The Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, I know, is aware of my point of view, and it is this. The new recruitment rules demand a domicile or birth in a province before a recruit can be accepted in any Province. Sir, we know,—and the memories of several Members of this House can easily be taken back to a time when it was very difficult to get employees for the Postal Department, especially postmen. Employees, who have, by assiduous labour, risen to be classified as intelligent workmen and are not called "menials" today,—these men have worked and lived for years in provinces which they have served, such as the capital cities of India, and it is not fair to these employees whose families have been compelled to live in their places of birth, such as Bihar, etc., that their children should be disqualified from employment in a province where their fathers and grandfathers had spent the best part of their lives in the service of the Postal Department. I know the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has promised to give this matter his early and sympathetic consideration, but Sir, as yet no orders have been passed on this matter, and I do think that those employees who have served in the capital cities of India should not have these prohibitory laws placed on the employment of their issues in the provinces which they have legally served for years.

The next point relates to the compensatory house rent allowance while on leave. Sir, a compensatory house rent allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem is granted by the Government of India to postmen and the members of the lower gazetted staff in post offices in Calcutta, but, unfortunately, this allowance is not allowed, when an official is granted leave, notwithstanding the fact that there is a clear ruling in the Supplementary Rules (Vide No. 6), and to the extent he takes leave, he is deprived of the said compensatory allowance. This matter has been represented to the authorities, but, so far, there has been no redress. I bring this matter to the notice of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, so that he may give his most sympathetic consideration to it.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government, and particularly of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs who deals with such matters, is about the confirmation of those employees

appointed or promoted after the 16th July, 1931. Owing to financial stringency, all appointments and promotions made after the 16th July, 1931, are not confirmed as yet, and difficulties arise when men apply for leave, inasmuch as when they do so, they are reverted to their original substantive posts, and, in consequence thereof, most men do not take leave for fear of reversion to their substantive appointments. This difficulty occurred in the Railway Department a few years ago, but it has since been righted. I would ask the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to review this matter in a similar way.

Then, there is another matter which has become a hardy annual. The number of people who claim this privilege are annually getting less and less. I am referring to candidate postmen who are offered employment in certain capital towns as a sort of reserve to meet urgent rushes of work. The Honourable Member in charge, who has had experience of this matter in the capital towns, realises the difficulties with which both the Department and these employees are faced. He realises the grievances of these seasonal candidate postmen who have been so acting or officiating for seasonal periods for years and years. The Department has always at hand a supply of experienced men when needed, and although these men have been waiting for years and years for the fruit of their labours, they are denied confirmation. I know the Honourable Member will say that he has reduced the staff of postmen and he has no vacancies, but, I ask, why appoint new men when you have these experienced people waiting, men who have rendered many years of good seasonal service, men who have kept the Department going during these seasonal periods? I ask the Honourable Member kindly to consider sympathetically the prior claims of these people when filling in new vacancies. They have certainly earned such recognition.

I now turn to something of a different nature. There are many other grievances of the subordinate staff which I could detail, but I would only weary this House; moreover, those details are already before the Director General, indeed, I believe, it forms a big part of his daily duties.

The other point which I desire to refer to is the colossal expenditure of this Department on its audit and accounts side. Those who are familiar with the history of this Department will know how, after the Finance Department assumed control over the expenditure of the Postal Department, the expenditure has been raised, retrenchment has been the order of the day and efficiency has been generally impaired. The first false step taken was the appointment of a financial expert, Mr. Heseltine, as Chairman of a Committee of Inquiry about 15 years ago which suggested an amalgamation scheme

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: May I ask, Sir, if the Honourable Member is relevant in bringing up the question of expenditure on a motion which refers to the grievances of postal employees?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: May I reply to that, Sir? Do I understand the Honourable Member correctly in that he means that the term "postal employees" is confined to postal subordinates only? Sir, I should say that the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs is also a postal employee, so also are all postal officials from the highest to the lowest; and this motion includes all their grievances and the causes that have led up to them

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards that, the Chair does not think such a wide interpretation can be put on the interpretation of the Mover himself.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I bow to your ruling in this matter. Of course, Sir, I could indulge in what is called the periphrastic conjugation and in a devious manner come back to the issue, I desire to raise. No one who has studied the history of the Postal Department will deny that this huge expenditure has had its direct and reflex action on the postal employee. I would, therefore, recast my remarks and say that it is all very well for Government to say we must reduce the staff, we must reduce this when the very nucleus of the whole trouble has been due to this extravagant expenditure since it came under the control and purview of the Finance Department. The origin of that was,—as I was about to mention when the Honourable Member interrupted me,—the appointment of a financial expert, Mr. Haseltine, about 15 years ago, as a result of which various extravagant reforms were introduced into this Department which has necessitated ruthless retrenchment in the subordinate staff to be able to pay the increased top heavy additional expenditure. Sir, the next thing the Finance Department did was to place all officials from postmen upwards under certain Statutory rules thus encouraging them to take long vacations in the country without due notice and often on false medical certificates from local practitioners before arrangements for their relief could be made. The result was that duplication of appointments was necessary

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I shall finish within these two minutes, Sir. Further, committees demanded by and directed from the Finance Department, consisting of members with no practical experience or knowledge of "postal" affairs have produced reports which are mere eyewash.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: What committees is my Honourable friend referring to?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I mean the large number of committees that have sat on the Postal and Telegraph Department, they are innumerable.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should be very glad if the Honourable Member would give me some details. He stated that these committees consisted of people who knew nothing about the Postal Department. That is a categorical allegation which I should like to hear substantiated.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: May I substantiate in general terms without going into it in detail? A recent departmental Committee of Enquiry, just over, was naturally afraid to make suggestions to lower the cost of financial control and so their deliberations have resulted in a fiasco except perhaps in the direction of imposing further retrenchment of subordinate postal staff which must adversely affect efficiency, already at

a low ebb. A comparison of the senior staff on the postal side in the blue lists for April, 1932, and January, 1934, reveals the following:

	1932.	1934.
No. of Asst. Directors General.	2	Nil.
No. of Dy. Postmasters General	14	13
No. of Superds. of Post Offices	147	144

I have not included the large number of postal inspectors who are non-gazetted. When they were retrenched the number of Deputy Postmasters General and Superintendents should have been increased in order to maintain efficient control and stop blocks in promotion. In the British and South African Postal Services, the proportion of supervisory officers to working staff is much higher than in India, and the numbers in both classes increase automatically as business grows. How can efficiency be maintained in a huge country like India with its present comparatively indifferent workers by reduction of supervision personnel and limitation of activities of officers, by curtailment of travelling allowances to figures below actual touring costs? If this kind of retrenchment were practised in the police and railways, crimes would increase and serious mishaps on lines of communication multiply. When the axe is applied indiscriminately in the post office, letters are lost or destroyed and the public put to much annoyance at post offices, despite the excessive rates charged for postage. Postal staff is strictly regulated in numbers by application of time tests and other devices for gauging the amount of work to be done, and if the number of employees is reduced to a figure below that justified by these regulations, the public interests suffer injury. I am sorry I have no personal postal administrative experience in this matter, but I have been in contact with this problem for some time, and I say there is no doubt in my mind that if you compare the various items in the profit and loss accounts (Appendix 11), my allegations regarding the increase of account and audit charges in the last decade or two in the Postal Department will be proved by a scrutiny of past and present figures.

I have very little more to add. It is all very well to say that this department today needs a large highly paid audit and accounts staff to control its finances and so saddle it at the top with a very heavy expenditure. But, in olden times, what did you have? Did you have this large checking and controlling Department? No, you did not. What did you have at that time? Is there any necessity for the continuance of the post of Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs, on a salary of Rs. 3,000 per mensem and in addition, over 20 Deputy Accountants General etc? Is it not possible to revert to the procedure in force, ten years ago, when the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, and the Secretaries of the Department of Industries and Labour and of the Finance Department of the Government of India, in consultation with the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, watched and controlled the financial policy of the Department?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has exceeded his time limit.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: May I just say this? Ten years ago, this Department was run with a profit on commercial lines—so far as the post offices were concerned—under the advice of experienced administrative officers, but, since the newly appointed financial experts at headquarters have assumed control of the financial policy of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, it has lost its surplus revenue and is working, even with its resultant compelled retrenchment of staff, at a serious loss to the detriment of the public interest. This is not the case in other countries. I ask, what are the grounds for employing no less than twenty Deputy and Assistant Accountants General and other accounts officers, besides clerical staff, when a large reduction has been made in the cadre of Assistant Directors General and the subordinate staff has been considerably reduced? Cannot the head post offices throughout India, which possess fully qualified and experienced accountants, undertake the local audit of paid money orders to save the high cost of audit staff employed under the Accountant General? Despite the reduction in the total staff employed, the gazetted and clerical staff of the Finance, Accounts and Audit Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs has increased in the past twenty or thirty years out of all proportion to the growth of the monetary work of the Department. To arrest and reduce this expenditure, it would be worth while introducing the experiment of local audit of paid money orders in head post offices. These vouchers and documents could be sent after payment to the issuing post offices for the necessary checks, before being filed for inspection by the postal supervising staff. The reduction of the postal audit staff is quite feasible, and with the abolition of the posts of some of the Financial Adviser of the Posts and Telegraphs, there would be a saving of quite a lakh and a half annually.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really not relevant.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: My time prevents me from developing the other points of economy that I can place before this House in support of my contention. I see my Honourable friends on the Government Benches are laughing. While my criticisms may evoke their laughter, may I hope that they will evoke also a little serious attention? Sympathy goes a long way. But laughter, Sir, creates laughter in the other side.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter to Three of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim, in the Chair.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Sir, I want to make a statement about the suggestion that there should be no work on Friday. I have ascertained the views of the Honourable Members, and the position we take up is this. If it is the general desire of this House that there should be no work on Friday, we shall not oppose it, but that will involve our working on Monday. I would remind this Honourable House that Monday was originally allotted for the transaction of official

business, and it is to suit the convenience of many of my Honourable friends here that we agreed to take off that Monday. So, the position now is this—if there is no work on Friday, then we shall have to sit on Monday, and as I cannot expect an answer just now, I suggest to the House through you that my friends will decide the matter among themselves and they will let you know, so that I can know from you in this House as to what is the general desire of the House—as to which alternative they would adopt. Then, we can definitely make up our mind.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not find in his seat the Honourable Member who made the suggestion about the holiday. The Chair thinks what has been stated by the Leader of the House will suit the convenience of all—that the Honourable Members will decide among themselves as to what will suit them, whether they would have a holiday on Friday and sit on Monday. The Chair might inform the House that the *Haj-i-Akbar* does not occur every year. It occurs once in, say, seven years. It is not in the list of gazetted holidays, but if the House generally agrees that in the special circumstances the Assembly might not sit on that day, in that case we will have to sit on the 18th and transact official business as was originally intended. There is time yet for the Honourable Members to consult among themselves and let the Chair know in time.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I just want to say a word on this motion. I sympathise with what my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has said with regard to the increased pensions of postal employees.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You have done it in Bombay?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am not opposing you. Don't get so nervous. The Honourable the Finance Member gave the financial stringency through which we have passed as a reason for not having increased these pensions, and he said that as better times had come, he would reconsider the matter. This Department is a commercial department, and undoubtedly the loss that the Department makes may have to be made good out of the general revenues, but if you increase the expenditure permanently, as you would have to do if you give increased pensions, you must make the Department self-supporting and not rely upon the general revenues to make up the deficit year after year, and, therefore, I suggest that the House should be prepared for higher rates and I for one would be quite prepared for it if these pensions are to be increased. I would be prepared to give the Department a larger revenue provided Government increased these pensions and did justice to these poorer classes of employees, but I would not agree to make good this loss from the general revenues from year to year.

An Honourable Member: Why not?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Because it is a commercial department. It has been an established principle that this Department has got to be self-supporting. In bad times, you do get deficits which may have to be made good, and it was never intended that this Department should make a profit. You must render service to the public at cost price, and, therefore if to increase these pensions, is a legitimate charge upon the Department, and I believe it is a legitimate charge, then I trust that it will not be a question of whether we are going through bad times or good times. It will be a question of an increased income to meet the extra expenditure.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think it will probably be more convenient if I intervene in the debate at this stage instead of waiting until the close. My Honourable friend, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, is obviously in a better position to deal with specific grievances than I can hope to be, and I, therefore, propose to confine myself to a few general observations. The general impression I have gathered from the debate so far is that the grievances of postal employees are neither so numerous nor as deep seated as we might have had reason to fear, and I think also that I am not going too far when I say that there is general recognition of the willingness of the Director General to examine those grievances carefully and to deal with them sympathetically. The most important grievance which has been voiced today was that put forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and I can assure him that the interruptions I made in the course of his speech this morning were made entirely in the interests of accuracy and not in any desire to criticise his main point with which I have had the very greatest sympathy ever since I first took over charge of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. He has, I hope, received what he will consider a sufficiently satisfactory reply from my Honourable Colleague, the Finance Member. All I need say in that connection is with reference to the point just raised by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. We have, of course, to examine how much the grant of this concession will cost us. I need hardly assure him that there can be no question of the cost of it being met from general revenues. It must be met from the revenues of the Postal and Telegraph Department. I can only hope that it will be possible to meet it without any increase in rates. We shall continue in the coming year, and I hope, in the years to come, to pursue the same policy of economy that we are following today. It has I think been successful. The budget we have placed before the House, which I shall have further opportunities later on of explaining, though not as satisfactory as we could wish, still shows very definite signs of improvement. I trust that the financial position will sufficiently improve in the course of the coming year to enable us without difficulty to meet the extra charge that will be involved when we give these increased pensions to the inferior servants.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I just put a question. I suppose it will not be by ruthless retrenchment that the economies will be obtained

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: There is no question of ruthless retrenchment. I am not quite sure whether I have answered questions in the House on that subject yet. There are certainly some on the order paper which I shall be answering in the course of the next few days, and I am stating that the retrenchment campaign comes to an end on the 31st of this month, and that any further savings by reduction of appointments which may be justified in future will be made in the ordinary course, as vacancies occur. I was rather surprised to find if I may say so that my Honourable friend Mr. Giri, voiced no special complaint and had only one very reasonable request to put forward. He asked that, when the report of the Postal Enquiry Committee is published, an opportunity should be given to the various unions concerned to make representations to the Director General. I can assure him that that will be done. We shall deal with the report of that committee in exactly the same way as we did with the report of the Varma Committee. Ample opportunity

will be given to all unions to put forward their representations and these will be carefully considered by the Director General before his recommendations are submitted to Government. I propose to leave all the other specific points to my Honourable friend, the Director General, but, before doing so, I would turn for a few moments, more in sorrow than in anger, to my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney. Sir, if my Honourable friend were as eminent a lawyer as he is a doctor, he would, I think, have studied his brief rather more carefully (Laughter.) He put forward the unsubstantiated statement that the Posts and Telegraphs Department had from time to time been flooded with committees of people who knew nothing about either postal or telegraph work. I asked him to substantiate that statement but he was unable to do so, and he then went on to talk about the Postal Enquiry Committee, the result of which, he said, was going to be a fiasco. Sir, if there is one committee that is absolutely free from the condemnation of consisting of people who know nothing about the work of the Department it happens to be the Postal Enquiry Committee, which consisted entirely of postal officials with long and varied experience of all branches of postal work.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, with an equal sense of sorrow and not of hostility, may I explain to the Honourable Member that when I criticised those committees, I did so in a generic way, I did it mainly with a desire to show that the financial implications of the report of the members who were on that committee in regard to audit and accounts expenditure of the Department showed that they were unmindful of these requirements.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I must confess, Sir, I do not appreciate the point raised by my Honourable friend. I asked him to give me instances of committees which did not consist of postal and telegraph officials

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Take the last Varma Committee.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That committee consisted, if I recollect aright, of five members, and, all those five, with the exception of the Chairman, Mr. Varma, were telegraph officials. That hardly bears out the assertion of my Honourable friend. He went on to say that the Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee would probably be a report in favour of "vested interests", because they were afraid of doing anything else. Well, if that committee reports in favour of vested interests, that is exactly the point of view, I should have thought, that would appeal to my Honourable friend. (Laughter.) Sir, one reason why I have risen now is to make some reference to his attack on the Financial Adviser. He suggests that we should abolish the Financial Adviser and that we should distribute his pay among the postal employees.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I did not say anything of the kind. I never said anything about vested interests or that you distribute the pay of the Financial Adviser among the postal employees. I said—you stop the expenditure of your heavy audit and accounts department and revert to the old system under which you audited your accounts.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Again, Sir, I regret I am unable to agree with my Honourable friend. I may not have quoted his exact words, but he certainly, to the best of my recollection, said, towards the end of his speech, that if we abolished the Financial Adviser, we should be able to redress the grievances of the postal employees, and, at any rate, one way of doing that is by raising their pay.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: May I for the last time, for my Honourable friend's information, say that, when I advised that, I meant this: do not saddle your Postal and Telegraphs Department with this heavy, over-head Finance Department. Reduce it and use that money for the relief of your lower paid postal employees and not for the entertainment of highly-paid officers. (Hear, hear.)

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is exactly what I said that the Honourable Member did say. (Laughter) There is really no point of difference between us two.

Now, I shall leave it to the Director General to explain the system of audit in the Postal Department and the necessity for it. All
3 P.M. I wish to do is to refer to the Financial Adviser himself. I am quite certain that my Honourable friend said that, if we had no Financial Adviser, we might be in the happy position of having a big surplus in the Postal and Telegraphs Department, and that the drastic retrenchments during the last few years would not have been necessary. Sir, he admitted that he has no administrative experience. Well, I have, and I can assure him that that is not the case and that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is under a deep debt of gratitude to the Financial Adviser (Hear, hear), who has helped it to weather the economic storm as successfully as it has done. The position, Sir, of the Financial Adviser is not an easy one. He might, with some reason, be regarded by myself and by my Department as the watch-dog of the Finance Department and it is quite possible that we might have suspicions of him on that account, but I can assure the House that the Financial Adviser is a tower of strength to the Department and that no one could have been more successful than Mr Varma and Mr Coburn before him in discharging the extremely difficult task of serving two masters.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: That is so but, why have over 20 Deputy Accountants General and a big staff?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is a point which, as I have already explained, I must leave to the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to explain. I consider that the Financial Adviser and his staff have saved the Department their pay many times over. I can only express my satisfaction once again that the House has so little criticism to make of the working of the Department from the point of view of its employees, who have their own unions—very efficient unions some of them—to represent their grievances and I am glad to say, do so in reasonable and temperate fashion; and in conclusion I and my Department would express our willingness always to hear those grievances as sympathetically in future, as we have tried to do in the past. (Loud and Prolonged Cheers.)

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): **Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.**

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am very much thankful to you for after all allowing me to open my mouth. (Laughter.)

An Honourable Member: You are not making your maiden speech.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, what I mean to say is that I have after all now got an opportunity of speaking on this budget matter. It is no grievance that I make of it at all, but I do feel that an opportunity should be given to Members to place any grievances they may wish to represent by means of their cut motions, though, of course, according to the arrangements between the Leaders of Parties certain individual cuts are being discussed and time is being exhausted upon them. I do not take any objection to that, but, all the same, when we come here to ventilate so many grievances by means of our cut motions, I think some arrangements might be made in some manner or other by which the time should be adjusted in such a manner that some time should be left for each grievance to be placed before the House. Otherwise, it amounts to this, that we have to put forward several grievances.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Chair must point out to the House and to the Honourable Member, who, it is believed, is a Member of the Nationalist Party, that all the Leaders of Parties and several representatives of others represented to the Chair that this is the best arrangement in which these motions could be taken.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I do accept that position. I have no grievance against the Chair at all. What I want is to draw the attention of the Leaders to it that they should consider in what manner these other grievances could be ventilated. I do belong to the Nationalist Party, and I do abide by the decision of my Leader. But what I mean to say is that some method should be found out in which other grievances also could be placed before the House.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Now, here is your chance.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Only on the post office! Now, Sir, I wholly support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, the champion of labour. The point is that the Honourable Member has not moved a motion under which all the grievances of the postal employees could be ventilated. I know that he confined himself only to one point, that is with regard to pension. But I do take it that it could not be his intention that the other grievances should not be exposed and ventilated. I know that fully well. It is only on account of the time limit that he has not been able to pay any attention to other grievances. He did very well in drawing attention first to a very long standing grievance. I am also glad that the Government have after all come to their senses. They have now thought fit to give an assurance that this pension question would be revised. What I want to say is that while we are thankful for this assurance to ameliorate the condition of inferior servants, I should suggest that the rates of pension should be adjusted in such a manner that it may not cause

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invidious distinction as regards any one particular class. We find half the salary is given as pension after thirty years service. I submit the rules should not be revised in such a manner that it would half the salary in the case of one class of public servants and a different rate in the case of another class of servants. There should be one rate for all. That is what I want to ward against. While on the question of revision of pensions, I would draw the attention of the House to a resolution passed by the Bombay Posts and Telegraphs Workmen's Union which runs thus:

"Owing to the fact that the scale of pension represents Rs. 4 per month, which was fixed 75 years ago by the Government of India for their inferior servants retiring on the completion of their service, it has now become totally inadequate to maintain them in their old age and that in some parts the inferior servants in provincial employ are now granted a pension equivalent to half average pay."

This is the portion to which I want to draw the attention of the Government and the attention of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs:

"This Union recommends that in view of the financial improvement, Government will be pleased to revise as quickly as possible the pension rules applicable to inferior servants so as to qualify them on retirement to draw a pension equivalent to half their average salary."

The next point is in regard to the communication I received from Karachi. There they say there are classes of inferior servants who are called packers. Their business is to clear letter boxes, stamp letters, pack the mails in the boxes and carry them to the stations and do all sorts of miscellaneous work. Now, these packers are being treated differently from the postmen. I do not understand why this should happen. I am open to correction on this point. But my information that has been conveyed to me is that the postmen do get a pension which comes to half their average pay and these packers do not get at the same rate. I cannot understand that. I, therefore, suggest that in framing or revising the pension rules, no invidious distinction should be made as at present. This will be causing bitterness among them. With regard to packers, I may also say that their pay requires revision. I hope the Director General will pay consideration to that point also. Coming to their uniforms, it is only one pugree and a shirt given to them, whereas to others it is different. Though this is a small point, yet it is very painful to these packers to have only one pugree and one shirt. With regard to leave also they are very much inconvenienced. Ordinarily it is one month's leave that they get after putting in a service of eleven months, whereas in the case of packers, they are not given leave at all even for emergent purposes. I hope the Director General will verify this point also, and, if my information is correct, the packers do require some relief in the way of leave. Passing on to the smaller inferior staff, the messengers of Telegraphs, they are also sufferers on that score with regard to pension.

Coming to the grievances having reference to the Karachi General Post office, I would place before the House the question of the postal union of Karachi. That union is not being very well attended to and their grievances are not attended to and redressed. The other day, in this House, my Honourable and gallant friend, Colonel Gidnev, was very rightly speaking that there has been opposition to these unions from the Government officers. I have given now an instance.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I was not referring to postal unions. I was referring to the railway unions.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I know that my Honourable and gallant friend was referring to the railways. I have now brought a similar instance in regard to the post office also. It is my duty to place before the House this grievance, and I do expect the Director General, who is personally known to me and who has been paying attention to the grievances of the postal employees, to attend to this grievance also. It is with that idea I am drawing his attention just now. Whenever we bring certain facts to his notice, he has been courteous in his replies. I know he is trying his best to see that all these grievances are removed. I now say that the grievance I have just mentioned about the Karachi postal union should be removed. With regard to these unions, they say that whenever they go to the Government officers with respect to certain grievances, the reply always given to them is this, that they are the grievances of one or two individual men. If you do not care to attend to the grievances of one or two men, that will lead to greater grievances hereafter on the part of others, and it is always good to nip it in the bud. Therefore, I submit that the Karachi union should be given attention, and their grievances heard.

Then, Sir, coming to one more question with regard to this union, there is a class of inferior servants who are messengers in the Telegraph Department. With regard to that, I say that they have got their own union in Karachi and they have applied that their union should be recognised. But, up to this time, it has not been done. The point is that the clerks and other interior persons have got their own union and that has been recognised, and there is no reason why this should not be recognised also. I think at some places these messengers have joined the union of the clerks and the inferior staff. But here they have got their own union, they are very large in number, they have their own office and they have their own President. Why should not their union be recognised? I hope this grievance too will be redressed by the Director General.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor (Director General of Posts and Telegraphs): Sir, I wish to acknowledge first the very friendly criticism which has emanated from all the Honourable Members who have spoken on this cut motion. I am accustomed to listen to complaints about post and telegraph matters wherever I go, but they are always accompanied by a feeling of friendship and liking for the Department . . .

Dr. F. X. DeSouza (Nominated Non-Official): For you personally.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: ...and I hope for me also. It is somewhat unfortunate that this particular cut came on today when it was least expected. I never thought that the large number of cuts which stood before Demand No. 23 would be passed over in the course of a few minutes. The subject, again, is so vast that it is almost impossible to do justice to it. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, raised the question of pensions for inferior servants and this has been already dealt with by the Honourable the Finance Member and the Honourable Member in charge of the Department. But, about the other grievances, I should like to say this.

We have in the Department a very large number of all-India unions. I have here a list of 13 such unions which have been recognised by the

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Department. They are of an all-India character. Every one of these has got circle branches, divisional branches and town branches. Under the organisation which we have got and the rules laid down, every local branch can represent its grievance to the local officer. If it finds that it cannot get its grievance redressed, it refers the matter to the provincial branch. The provincial branch then approaches the head of the circle. If it is unable to get the grievance redressed, the provincial branch addresses the all-India head office. The all-India head office then approaches the Director General. If the all-India union is unable to get this grievance redressed by the Director General, it approaches the Honourable Member in charge of the Department. My point in describing this is to show that in the Department we have provided for the representation of grievances in a manner which should ensure that every grievance is thoroughly examined by more than one officer. I am glad that my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, gave me credit, or gave the Department credit, for the cordial relations which exist between the officers and the unions in the Department. That has been the outstanding feature in the Department. I remember that in the beginning of the organisation of these unions, there was some suspicion in the minds of these unions that the officers of the Department did not like the unions. But that is no longer the case. My reason for mentioning this fact is not to deny the existence of grievances, but to show that these grievances have been thoroughly considered time and again, and if we have not been able to remedy them, it is either because we do not recognise them to be grievances or because it is impracticable in the present financial position of the Department to remedy them.

In the criticisms which were made, some Honourable Members went so far as to question the basic policy of the Department. But, Sir, this basic policy of the Department which has been announced in this House more than once, namely, that the Posts and Telegraphs Department, while not being a source of revenue to Government, should pay its way, is a very sound policy, and I do not think that any Honourable Member would, after careful consideration, deny the soundness of this policy. The remedy, therefore, for all grievances must depend upon the finances of the Department, on the question whether the revenue earned would cover the expenditure that has to be incurred in running an efficient system of posts and telegraphs.

There has been also criticism from my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, about what he calls the financial expenditure. I found it somewhat difficult to understand what he meant by financial expenditure. But I can see that he refers to the commercial system of accounts which we have adopted in order to see whether the service as a whole is working at a profit or at a loss. I do not propose to enter into an examination of this system, but I would merely say that this system which was devised about ten years ago has been subjected to extremely careful and expert examination by the Postal Accounts Inquiry Committee which was presided over by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. That system has been made as accurate as it is possible to do in dealing with a Department which serves such large areas and gives such a variety of services.

I think Sir Henry Gidney had further in his mind the expenditure incurred on the Accounts and Audit Department. He seemed to think

that the expenditure incurred on the Accounts and Audit Department had increased far too much. All I would point out to him is this. In our Department, we deal with very large sums of money which are collected and disbursed all over India and Burma in about 22,000 offices. It is essential that there should be an excellent system of accounting and audit, and, in the absence of such a system, the dangers of loss or misappropriation are very great. He referred to the increasing cost of accounts and audit in recent years, but I should like to point out to him that this increase has been due to the increasing work connected with Savings Bank and Cash Certificate transactions. For doing this work, the Posts and Telegraphs Department receives credit from the general revenues, and this sum, which we receive from the general revenues and which was Rs. 44½ lakhs in 1930-31, is expected in the budget estimates for 1935-36 to be Rs. 56½ lakhs—an increase of nearly 12 lakhs. As we are receiving payment for work done for the Savings Bank and Cash Certificates, it is no wonder that our expenditure has gone up in the Accounts and Audit Department. I may assure Sir Henry Gidney that, as the custodian of the Department, I watch very carefully every debit that is raised against the Department; and the increase in expenditure, whether it occurs on the part of the general budget of the Department or on the side of the accounts and audit, is examined by the Director General very carefully before it is agreed to . . .

Lient.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: But your expenditure has increased while the income is reduced.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I was only referring to the expenditure on the accounts and audit side, where owing to the increase in the number of savings bank transactions and cash certificate transactions, we receive additional credit from the general revenues . . .

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Before you leave this subject, will you please answer two questions? One is whether you debit the expenditure on experiments in telegraphy to revenue account or to capital account: the second is, have you got separate accounts for post office and telegraphs? Our impression is that the post office pays its way: it is the telegraphs department which is a white elephant to his Department.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: May I just say that we are now dealing with the grievances of the postal employees and not with the accounting system which has been adopted in the Department? I only brought it in in order to show that the criticism made by Sir Henry Gidney to the effect that what he called the financial expenditure was excessive is not a justifiable one.

We have been criticised in connection with the retrenchment policy adopted by the Department; and we have been told by my friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, that the Department has treated the lower paid employees most unfairly in that the retrenchment has been excessive with regard to the lower paid staff, but not sufficient as regards the higher officers. This criticism has been made before my predecessor, Sir Thomas Ryan dealt with this criticism at great length in this House last year. I do not wish to traverse all the arguments which Sir Thomas Ryan brought forward here. I hope my friend

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Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, will take an early opportunity of refreshing his memory with the record of that debate; but I would like to point out very briefly that in the retrenchment which has been carried out in the department since the 30th November, 1931, and up to the end of the current financial year, we have retrenched 84 officers, 10,794 non-gazetted staff and 3,543 inferior staff. I admit that the numbers of the last two classes are very large, but we must look not to the numbers in themselves, but to the percentage which they bear to the total staff. If that is examined, it would be found that while 14.74 per cent of the gazetted staff has been retrenched, the percentages for the non-gazetted superior staff and for the inferior staff are 11.5 and 10.29 respectively. I submit that that is a proof that in carrying out retrenchment we have not been treating the lower paid staff unfairly. Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury told us that there are too many officers in the department. That again is a criticism which has been made often before and explained more than once in this House. We have taken special trouble to explain in our annual report what exactly is meant by the superior officers, that is to say, the administrative staff which looks after the general administration, as apart from the executive staff. I sent a copy of the annual report to every Member of this House: on page 29 of that report, it is explained that there are really 107 officers holding higher posts such as are commonly regarded by the general public as controlling the business of the department. I wish to submit that a staff of 107 officers for a department which has got about 100,000 employees scattered over the whole of India and Burma is by no means excessive. I should like further to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the magnitude of the business carried on by the department. Apart from the question of the number of letters and postcards handled, which I do not wish to mention here, I would like to draw attention to the fact that Rs. 75 crores worth of money orders were issued and the same amount paid; and in the savings bank we have 3,000,000 current savings bank accounts with a total balance of Rs. 52 crores; and we have 87,000 postal life insurance policies covering an aggregate assurance of over 16 crores. Apart from the amount of cash or the number of articles handled, there is this point that our officers are not merely officers supervising the work of their staff: they have to deal with the public, with commercial bodies and business houses, and they have to watch the necessity for greater postal facilities or for restricting them where they are no longer necessary. I would, therefore, for the last time I hope, convince the House that the staff of officers employed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department is not excessive.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: You want more supervising stuff.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: What about the Telegraph Engineering Department?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I am coming to that. My friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, stated that in the Telegraph Engineering Department we had not carried out the same amount of retrenchment that we have carried out in the other branches. This question, again, was dealt with by my predecessor, Sir Thomas Ryan, and I really am very sorry that I have merely to repeat what he stated last year. The point is this: that even if the

telegraph traffic of the department has fallen slightly, the number of miles of wire that have to be maintained is still the same. To ensure efficient service, supervision and control is necessary. Our telephone branch is expanding very rapidly: everybody is aware that we are now giving trunk connections right from one end of India to another. We are fast expanding and we have in the next year a capital programme of over 55 lakhs.

There are a few more points. Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury referred to the fact that certain postal divisions were very large with a very large number of offices, and that certain others had a smaller number of offices. Here, again, I would point out that this question was very carefully examined as a result of a recommendation made by the Posts and Telegraphs Department's Retrenchment Sub-Committee, and we have re-arranged all the divisions in India so as to ensure to each officer a proper day's work or rather a proper year's work.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai referred to a very large number of grievances and he made certain statements which, I am afraid, are not quite correct. Packers and mail peons constitute what we call the inferior service. Postmen constitute superior service.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any difference in their work and of the postmen?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: There is an enormous difference in the work. Postmen are literate people; they handle cash, deliver letters, money orders and insured articles; they have to keep an account of the money they take with them; they are really doing responsible work. A packer, on the other hand, does not do much more than a coolie's work; he is not required to read and write, though he is expected to be literate; he merely carries mails from one place to another, stamps letters, seals packets in the presence of the officers concerned.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): They object to the word "coolie".

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If the Honourable Member will suggest to me some other word, I shall be glad to use it.

An Honourable Member: Why not use the word labourers?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: As regards the question of uniform, the matter is under consideration. As regards leave, it is not a fact, Sir, that packers are not entitled to leave; they are entitled to leave.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But you don't give them leave

An Honourable Member: Will the Honourable Member see that uniforms are in future made of Khaddar?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: As regards the complaint which my friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai made that some local union was not listened to by the local officers, all I have to say is that the local union should refer the matter to the All-India Union, and the All-India Union can address me. I shall then certainly inquire into the matter

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I do not wish to take up any of the other grievances mentioned by the various Honourable Members. As I said before, every grievance which Honourable Members have brought before this House today has been considered in the Department, and we are always considering in the Department all these grievances very carefully and very sympathetically. It is sometimes our regret that we are not able to remedy certain grievances which undoubtedly are genuine. I am prepared to admit that fact, but certain circumstances, like the financial position, make it impossible to remedy things at once, but we do keep all these matters prominently in view, and I can assure Honourable Members that representations received from the unions are considered very carefully and remedied whenever possible. (Applause.)

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I shall be very brief in my reply to the discussion that has taken place. In the first place, I should like to thank the Finance Member as well as the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour for the sympathetic assurance they have given as regards the revision of the pension rules of the employees of Government belonging to the inferior services. I should, however, like to express the hope that the Government of India would take immediate steps to implement that assurance, and secondly, Sir, I hope that the assurance will be adequately implemented. I would not like the Government of India to maintain hereafter any discrimination in the treatment given to inferior servants and to others as regards pensions. I am very grateful to the Honourable Members of this House who have taken part in this discussion.

There is one satisfactory feature that exists in this department, and it is this. The relations between the associations of the employees of the postal department and the Government have for several years been very cordial. Great credit is due to the several Honourable Members who have been in charge of the Department and also to the several Directors General as well as to the officers of the associations of the postal employees. I feel that if other employees of Government in this country were to follow the example of the Postal Department, we should not hear the complaints which we often hear about the unions and the officers of the unions. The responsibility for maintaining friendly relations lies upon both the parties. I, therefore, hope that the example set by the Postal Department and also by the postal organizations will be followed by employers in other industries as well as other Departments of Government and by their organizations.

There is one remark which I would like to make about the speech of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs. He said, Sir, that as regards retrenchment in the Telegraph Department, they could not effect the same amount of retrenchment as in the Postal Department. I am not suggesting that there should have been a retrenchment in the Telegraph Department, but I am not satisfied with the argument which he advanced. My own suspicion is that the Telegraph Department is a department which is used more by people who have got political influence. The Government of India are not willing to restrict facilities which are given to people who have political influence. But, whenever the Government of India want to reduce expenditure, they do it by taking away the facilities given to people in the rural areas. The first thing which the Government

do when they want to effect a retrenchment is to 'close down' the post offices, not in the cities and towns where people can kick up a row, but in the rural areas. I hope, therefore, the Government of India will not allow this kind of discrimination to go on in the treatment given to rural areas and urban areas.

Then, as regards my motion, my object in proposing this cut was to protest against the delay which the Government of India have caused in coming to a satisfactory solution of the grievances which I had placed before this House. I have no desire, Mr. President, to censure the Government on account of the sympathetic assurance we have received today. I, therefore, propose to ask the leave of the House to withdraw my motion. But if the House insists upon having a vote on this motion, I want to make it quite clear that my motion will give a mandate to the Government of India to revise the pension rules satisfactorily within one year's time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw the motion?

Some Honourable Members: We are indifferent, Sir.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, there are 18 other motions standing in the name of Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim.

Position of the Bengal Mussalmans in the Office of the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, I wish to move No. 203. I beg to move:

'That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100.'

Sir, this is a very small cut . . .

Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): On a point of order, Sir. My motions on Demand No. 18 have been passed over.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Notice must have been given after the other motions.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, when Federation is looming so large I shall be excused for being a little parochial. I am certain, I shall not offend the susceptibilities of my friends on my right, for, after all, I know they will consider the very hard plight in which the Muslim community is placed in India today, and if these people have not received proper and sympathetic consideration at the hands of Government, I am certain, my friends will bear with me for a few minutes when I plead on their behalf. You will remember,—am I audible?

Some Honourable Members: Go on

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul Azim: You will remember, this Department has got a unique history of its own, and, within human memory, I should say that it existed in the province of Bengal from a very early period. When the Government of India had their headquarters in Calcutta, this Department was housed in Calcutta. Calcutta was the provincial Capital where the Mussalmans formed 42 per cent of the whole population. Though in the whole Circle Assam was included, for practical purposes Assam does not account, because the Muslim population there is very small indeed, and I should be forgiven if I do not take notice of them in talking on this motion. The House may remember that in 1923, at the instance of a Madras gentleman, a Member of this House, a Resolution was passed for balancing the administrative inequalities by communities of the Departments of the Government of India, I mean the services controlled by the Central Government. It is, of course, a matter of history. 1923 does not exist now; it is too late in 1934. From the facts at my disposal, I find that the Government of India in the Home Department came out as late as July, 1934, with a certain amount of story stating that the Mussalmans would have a certain representation in the Central Services. But I may be pardoned if I say that in spite of these loud talks and professions of kindness for the minority communities, the position has not much changed, especially in the case of the Mussalmans, for that reservation is no reservation at all. I should like to be pardoned by my Honourable friend, the Director General, with whom my relations are very cordial, because I respect him and we all like him, but I may tell him that the pace of recruitment in the Bengal and Assam Circle has been very slow. I am sure that one whose geographical situation is not so far to the North, I can assure him—his blood would boil. I do not want the moon in a day, but my humble submission is, how do you propose to justify it? I can tell my Honourable friends that if they want the right type of Mussalmans, the right type of good, loyal Mussalmans from the Bengal and Assam Circle, they would get a plethora of them to fill in any number of posts. The only thing that is wanting is goodwill. Here is the initial mistake and no amount of circular that the Government of India may send round will be of any use. I would like to suggest to the Government for their consideration that unless they hit on some method by which these important cases will not be overlooked, I am certain we shall not be in a position to come into our own even in 500 years.

Coming to other matters pertaining to my motion, let me deal with retrenchment of Muslim officials. As I have said already, we have had no chance to come in, but as regards the few that got in, what is the position with regard to retrenchment? The policy of the Director General in Bengal and Assam Circle has been to recruit by the Circle, but at the time of retrenchment, they have retrenched on divisional lines. May I ask the Government who are responsible for this state of affairs? If you wanted to recruit through the medium of the Circle, on a circle basis, I should have thought that you would stick to that for all purposes. But the procedure they have adopted would only lead to one conclusion, and that is that they wanted to get rid of those Mussalmans in the service who had only six or seven years' service and retain others. I would like to have a cogent and reasonable answer from my Honourable friend the Director General on this matter. If my remarks are not pleasing to a certain gentleman, I hope he will have at least patience enough to hear me.

Now, coming to the office of the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle, in Calcutta, what is the position that you find there, Mr. President? As a matter of fact, in the whole Circle, we have got only two Mussalman Superintendents of Post Offices. I may be told that the recruitment is on an all-India basis. It may be anything, but what is the justification for this? I want my place in the administration. I have a stake in this Department, you get tons of revenue from me in this Circle, and I claim to have experience of your business. It would not please me if you said that you had 500 Mussalmans in the Punjab and 600 Mussalmans in Madras in the service. My submission to the Government is that, if they respect for the sentiments of my people, who are 42 per cent. of the whole population, they should give their serious attention to this matter. Coming to the office of the Postmaster General, as a matter of fact, my relations with the present Postmaster General are very cordial; we all like and love him, I mean Rai Bahadur P. N. Mukherji. I have talked to him about this. But he says, he is guided by the policy dictated from here in Delhi and Simla, and, if there is only 1½ per cent. of Muslims in the whole office consisting of nearly 1,000 men or more, while we are 42 per cent. of the whole population, I am certain, you will find that my grievance is a very genuine one in that matter also. Coming to the General Post Office of Calcutta, there the things are in no way very much better. The position there is about 3 per cent. These are a few of the matters which I wanted to bring to the notice of the House through the medium of this motion. We, the minorities in this country, are peace-loving temperamentally, and believe in gradual evolution. But there is a limit even to that. One Honourable Member said that we had been befooled by the Government to a certain extent, but even if it be so, I hope they will not do so again.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq (Bakarganj *cum* Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): It is somewhat embarrassing to emphasise the needs of communities in a House like this where we should more properly devote our energies to the consideration of questions of an all-India character and policy. But when a question like this is raised, especially by a Member from Bengal, regarding the grievances of Bengal Muslims, I feel it my duty to place before the House certain facts which may help the Government in coming to a true appreciation of the Muslim position. Personally, I would very much prefer to see a matter like this settled by negotiation in the sense of personal talk regarding the grievances that may exist, because, I believe, there are many cases in which grievances have only got to be brought to the notice of the authorities to be redressed. We do not mean for a moment to imply that there has been anything like a studied neglect of Muslim claims on the part of the officers, but there are various causes which may have contributed to a state of things to which we take objection. I would place before the House certain facts, in addition to those that have been placed before the House by the Mover of this motion. The facts I have been able to collect after some amount of inquiry before I came to Delhi, and I collected these figures from responsible persons in Calcutta. I am told that the percentage of Muslims in the Bengal and Assam Circle

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has gone down in the year 1934, and, as a matter of fact, inquiries go to show that there are no apparent reasons why that should have taken place. In the matter of retrenchment, 133 Muslims were retrenched in excess of the number which would have been justified according to the ratio by which retrenchment should have been made on a communal basis.

Then, Sir, as regards the existing situation in the office of the Postmaster General, Bengal Circle, the Muslim representation is only 8 per cent. In the selection grade out of 26 posts there are only two Muslims. In the office of Superintendent of Post Offices, there is only one Muslim in the total strength of 25 and two Muslim inspectors out of a total strength of 102. In the Calcutta General Post Office there are 80 Muslim clerks out of a total strength of about 1,500. Now Sir, I do not for a moment wish to imply that the Muslims should be appointed *ad hoc*, whenever they come and simply because they are Muslims but, I take it that Government in recent times has been trying to take members of the minority communities who have not had proper representation at the present moment, provided they are qualified and fit to discharge the duties of the posts in which they are appointed. Subject, therefore, to a minimum test of efficiency, it is the policy of the Government to throw open these posts to the minority communities as much as possible. I am not personally acquainted with the present Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, but, since he is here, I make a personal appeal to him to look into the figures and to satisfy himself whether proper justice has been done to the Muslims of Bengal. For my part, I am quite prepared to wait and see. I have every confidence that if he looks into the figures, he will be satisfied that the grievance is genuine, and once he is satisfied about it, I have got every reason to be satisfied myself that he will do all he can to redress our grievances. If an assurance like that is given, I would ask my friend, Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, not to press this motion nor the other motions of a similar character standing in his name. It is not our purpose to antagonise the officials, but to give them a fair chance, and I would, therefore, ask my friend to wait and hear the reply that will be given by the Government officials, and, if that reply is of a sympathetic character, I would advise my friend not to press the motion.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, the cut motion, as it stands, refers to the position of Bengal Muslims in the office of the Postmaster General of the Bengal and Assam Circle. The speeches of the two Honourable Members refer generally to the question of the recruitment of Muhammadans in Government service. I should like, first of all, to point out that the existing percentages in the staff of any one particular office or in the staff in any one particular area are the result of recruitment over the last 30 years. Honourable Members must be aware that rules regarding recruitment on communal basis are of comparatively recent origin. It is natural, therefore, that in any particular office at the present moment the percentage of one community is far in excess of the percentage it would be entitled to under the recent orders. I would, therefore, beg Honourable Members not to draw any unfavourable conclusion by examining the staff of the office of the Postmaster General, Calcutta, or the staff of the Calcutta General Post Office or of any other office. Reference has been made to selection grade posts. It is laid down by Government that the rules regarding recruitment on a communal basis

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refer to direct recruitment only and not to promotions and that promotions in the Department must be made on considerations of merit, and when once a person comes into the service, his promotion should not depend upon his community or his race.

Sri J. K. Dasgupta: On a point of information. We are told that that being the rule, sometimes it happens that recruitments directly are made in one or two instances and then other recruitments of staff are made by promotion in order to stop the application of the Government rule. Is that correct?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir. We do our promotions on rules which are clearly laid down in the Departmental Manuals. Seniority and merit are the only qualifications. The Honourable Member again spoke of the number of Superintendents of Post Offices who happen to be in the Bengal and Assam Circle. Now, this cadre is an all-India cadre and the fact that at any given time there are more Muhammadans or more Hindus or more Europeans in one particular Circle is an entirely fortuitous circumstance. We must take into consideration the particular cadre as a whole in order to consider whether the proportionate number of any one particular community exists or not. The present rules of the Department clearly provide for local recruitment, that is to say, recruitment for an office from the local area—a principle that ensures that in Bengal, Bengal Muslims are taken and Bengal Hindus are taken. This principle was attacked by Sir Henry Gidney in his speech, but I need not deal with it at the present moment.

Srijut N. C. Bardaloi (Assam Valley : Non-Muhammadan): Is the same principle followed in Assam?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Yes, Sir. The question of the recruitment of Assamese in Assam was debated at great length in the Council of State at its Session in Simla, and, if the Honourable Member will read the debate on that question, he will find the whole position fully explained.

Srijut N. C. Bardaloi: I want information on one point. Just now the Honourable Member said that in Bengal, Bengali Muslims and Bengali Hindus will be taken. I am asking whether in Assam, Assamese Hindus and Assamese Muslims are appointed or men from Bengal, the United Provinces and Bihar and other parts are appointed?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The rules on the subject are exactly the same for Bengal as for Assam. I would like, Sir, to mention to the Honourable the Mover of this motion that the question of communal recruitment is always kept in the forefront in this Department and we obtain very detailed statements from the officers in order to ensure that the rules of the Department are being observed. I would now mention a few figures from which he would, I think, be satisfied that these orders are being properly observed. In the annual report for the year 1933-34, Appendix No. XVII, the Honourable Member will find the number of recruits classified according to different communities. He is aware that during the last few years the number of new recruits taken was extremely limited. It

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

will be seen that among the clerical staff in the lower division recruited in the Bengal and Assam Circle, out of 138 clerks who were recruited, 90 were Hindus, 41 were Muhammadans, one an Indian Christian and three belonging to other communities. As regards the lines staff, out of six linesmen who were recruited, two were Hindus and four were Muhammadans. Among the postmen and other miscellaneous classes, out of 84, 54 were Hindus and 28 were Muhammadans. Among the inferior staff, out of 408 who were recruited 216 were Hindus and 181 were Muhammadans. I hope, Sir, the figures I have read out will satisfy him that we are watching the interests of the minority communities very carefully. Recently, Government have in their Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, laid down further detailed instructions as to the principles on which recruitment of the different minority communities should be made. I may assure the Honourable the Mover of the motion that these rules are being very carefully observed: and, if in any particular instance, he or any other member of his community has reason to believe that these rules are not being observed, all he has to do is merely to draw my attention to this fact, and I wish to assure him that I shall have a very careful inquiry made into the matter.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Sir, I do not want to make a speech, but I just want to put two questions. May I just ask whether my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, has ever solved the mathematical problem which I am just going to give him, and it is this

Firstly, considering the rate of progress of Mussalmans, as it is, how long would it take for them to achieve twenty-five per cent? Will it take 30, 40 or 50 years, or how long? I just want to give him that problem—I repeat, considering the rate of increment, how long will it take before the Mussalmans can obtain the figure of twenty-five per cent? My friend can solve this problem and let me have the result later on. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then he will take as much time as the Army is taking over Indianisation.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: *Secondly*, he said just now that the promotions are made on the consideration of merit and seniority. Now, will it not be right for me to request him that whenever you make a promotion on the strength of efficiency and pass over senior officers, then a report must always be given to the Head of the Department as to why such and such a person has been passed over, and this fact should clearly be noted. There is a feeling on this side of the House that in order to have a particular individual appointed, you sometimes adopt the principle of seniority and sometimes the principle of efficiency, as you wish, in order to have the required man at the required place. (Laughter.) That is the impression that we have got. It is, therefore, very desirable that whenever you pass over any person on the ground of efficiency of another person and set aside the principle of seniority, then a report must always be given to the Head of the Department. And he should be satisfied that that is the right course. These are the two points to which I wanted to draw the attention

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, I must confess to not being a mathematician, but the Honourable Member is, I would draw his attention to Appendix XVII of the Report which shows that the Department has a staff of 97,826 employees, of whom 21,508 are Muhammadans and 67,150 are Hindus.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Officers?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I am giving the number of the total employees of the Department, and I would leave it to him to calculate, after how many years we shall reach the twenty-five per cent. at the present rate and ratio of recruitment.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Give me the rate of progress for different classes of services.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That is all given in the report a copy of which has been supplied to every Member of the House. As regards promotions, promotion is always made, as I have stated, on grounds of efficiency and seniority. If any senior officer is superseded on the ground of inefficiency, he has always his remedy of representing to his superior officers through the usual official channels.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, I have listened to the speech of the Honourable Member carefully, but I must say I am not satisfied with his explanation. This is practically not a new affair, but a hardy annual—this grievance of ours,—and we hope that a changed administration will in future remedy our grievances. When the virile Mussalmans will get into the Legislature, they will see that justice is done to them, but, under the present Constitution, we are absolutely helpless, Mr President. I am very liberal in all matters, Sir. I do believe in conciliation, but even to a man like me in my temperament it is intolerable that there is such criminal negligence on the part of the Government of India, so far as we are concerned, in all spheres of public services. But after listening to my esteemed friend, Mr. Bewoor, the Director General, I think I had better ask the leave of the House to withdraw the motion and give him a chance to better our position.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are other motions also in the name of the Honourable Member, Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim under Demand No. 28.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I have a motion under Demand No. 28—cut No.

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Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will have to wait for that.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There is nobody else, Sir

Maulvi Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): There are so many.

DEMAND No. 18—SALT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Salt'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Salt'."

Damage done to the poor Zamindars of the Khushab and Pind Dadan Khan Tahsils in the District of Shahpur and Jhelum in the Punjab on account of the Salt Range and the Khewra Salt Mines.

Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, in moving this cut, I mean to lay before the Government and this Honourable House the damage done to the poor zamindars of the Khushab and Pind Dadan Khan tahsils in the districts of Shahpur and Jhelum in the Punjab on account of the Salt Range and the Khewra Salt Mines. Sir, hundreds of tons of salt are being excavated from the Khewra Mines every year and the rain water that flows from over and inside these mines with a mixture of salt flows over the agricultural lands and destroys them all. No arrangements have so far been made to check this evil, nor have the people been compensated in any way for the loss. Sir, vast tracts of land situated in the neighbouring area of the Salt Range, specially the Khewra Mines have altogether become uncultivable, and the zamindars have been deprived of the little holdings they had. This question has been under the discussion of this House, twice before, but nothing has so far resulted. In 1927, the Honourable Raja Ghazanfar Ali, Member of the Council of State, then a Member of this Assembly, moved the question of the appointment of an enquiry committee to investigate into the causes of the damage done to the lands adjacent to the Khewra Mines and to devise ways and means to mend it.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta).]

Sir Basil Blackett, the then Finance Member, promised to take up the question and to appoint a committee of enquiry. The committee was no doubt appointed, but it simply enquired into the grievances of the salt miners and the other and the much more essential part, to enquire into the causes of the damage to the lands and to make good those losses, was left out. Then, again, the same Honourable Member of this House moved the matter in 1930. Sir George Schuster was pleased to give the same promise as Sir Basil Blackett had done, but with no result. Sir, the

people of the part of the country who have been deprived of their small holdings have been ever abiding and have always constituted the best part of the country in India. But, I think, as they are very loyal and never raise a hue and cry and have willingly sacrificed the lives of thousands of their people in the Great War for the sake of the Government, it is probably on that account that, in gratitude to their services, the Government have ignored their interests and have done nothing for them. The Government are quite certain that their interests are quite safe and that there will be no disturbance in that part of the country as far as the question of non-co-operation or non-payment of taxes is concerned. I think my Honourable Colleague, Nawab Malik Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, a Nominated Member of this House, would be able to give a true and detailed account of the plight of the zamindars who have been deprived of their little holdings, as he is resident of one of the districts concerned and has been a sub-divisional officer and for sometime the Deputy Commissioner of the *ilaga* where the Khewra Mines are situate. He has a good experience of the people of that part of the country and knows the condition of their lands. I hope, if he gets time to speak, he will explain to the House in what condition these lands are. Sir, the most important town, Pind Dadan Khan, in the district of Jhelum, has almost become a ruin on account of the Salt Range. The surrounding lands have become waste lands and the town has even been deprived of good drinking sweet water of its own soil. The importance of this cut is evident from the fact that a notice of this cut has been signed by almost all the Members from the Punjab. I do not see, Sir, why should Government have sat tight with closed eyes and deaf ears so long without enquiring into the reasons what damages are caused by the Khewra Salt Mines and to make good those losses especially when the Government get such a large income as 40 lakhs every year from those mines. Sir, I would strongly request that a committee, with a majority of non-official Members of this House, should be appointed to enquire into the causes of the damage done to the lands in the Salt Mine areas and some means should be adopted to compensate the agriculturists for the loss done to their lands. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta). Cut motion moved:

That the demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Sami Vencatachelum Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, while on the question of salt grievances, I desire to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member the case of very unfair treatment by the Government to the licensees of salt factories in the Madras Province. I trust, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member is aware that in the Madras Province, particularly in the Chingleput district, there are many salt pans which are worked by private persons under a system called the *kudivaram* system.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan (Nominated Non-Official): On a point of order, Sir. This cut motion refers to the Salt Range in the Punjab and not in Madras.

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Nominated Non-Official): Salt Range is the name of a territory in Jhelum district in the Punjab.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member is not in order in referring to Madras. The present cut relates to the Salt Range in the Punjab province.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: The cut relates to damage caused by the Salt Range in general, and Khewra Mines in particular, to the cultivable lands of zamindars in neighbouring areas.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): In any case, the Honourable Member was not called by the Chair to speak.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: When I began to address the House, you, Sir, kept quiet and allowed me to continue.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): On a point of order, Sir, when a Member is in possession of the House and allowed to speak for some minutes, can he be asked to sit down on the ground that he was not called upon?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member is out of order, because this does not relate to Madras at all and is restricted to the Punjab.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Then, I ask for your leave to support this cut motion. I heartily sympathise with the grievance which has been stated by the Honourable the Mover, and I may also add some other grievances of a more serious nature which exist in my own Presidency. (Laughter.) I do not know if the Honourable the Finance Member is aware that there is a system called *kudivaram* system prevailing in Madras Province, but, I am sure, Sir Frank Noyce who comes from Madras is aware of it. Under that system, private persons are licensed to manufacture salt. The lands themselves are owned by private persons and a certain quantity of salt is always allowed every year to these license holders. Government seem to have in view the ultimate abandonment of the manufacture of salt by these private owners. Therefore, they have been reducing the licenseable quantity of manufacture year after year, so much so that, during the present year, it has practically reached to a very low figure, thereby intending to curtail the value of these lands which they want to compensate ultimately. Sir, Government are always very keen on criticising the Members on this side that we have been advocating the repudiation of debts or appropriation of property and all that kind of thing. And, for that reason, my Honourable friends of the European Group have always been demanding safeguards. I hope Honourable Members of the European Group will now support me in asking for a safeguard against appropriation by Government without adequate and proper compensation to those persons who owned these lands for a long time and who have spent lots of money in the purchase of that property. I beg the Honourable the Finance Member to kindly examine this matter and give as much importance to this grievance as the grievance which has been put forward by the Honourable the Mover of this cut motion.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Member who has moved this cut. This grievance of the

zamindars of the Pind Dadan Khan sub-division is of a very long standing. As the General Secretary of the Zamindars' League, I know personally that they have been before the League several times and we have been urging upon Government to remove these springs and to compensate the zamindars adequately. Sir, I do not wish to make a long speech, but I wish only to add that an immediate remedy should be made and this grievance of those zamindars should be removed as soon as possible. Those zamindars are not vocal people, they do not know the ways and methods of modern propaganda, they do not go to the meetings and lecture. They are simple people, and, if I may say so, dumb people. They are suffering silently. I know they used to come to our meetings; they could not even relate the nature of their grievances. Once I went to that place and made inquiries from the villagers, and I saw that their grievance was very much stronger than they could express by their language. I, therefore, urge upon Government that this matter should be taken in hand immediately and their grievances removed. With these words, I support the cut.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I had no intention to speak on this motion, but, as my Honourable friend, the Mover, has referred to me, I must corroborate him in this respect that I was in charge of the Pind Dadan Khan sub-division for 4½ years. I fully corroborate the Honourable the Mover in this respect also that saltpetre has done great damage to the tract lying in the Pind Dadan Khan tahsil between the hills and the Jhelum river, a tract which is very valuable otherwise. It is about seven or eight miles in breadth and about 50 miles in length. However, I cannot agree with the Honourable the Mover that the main mischief has been by the operations of the Khewra Salt Mine though there may be some effect of it in its vicinity. Its effect could not go in the length of fifty miles in the Pind Dadan Khan tahsil and, then, further on, to the Khushab tahsil in the Shahpur district as mentioned by the Honourable the Mover. Really the mischief lies elsewhere. There are several streams from the Salt Range which flow towards the river Jhelum. They pass through the saltish zone of the hills which extend throughout the southern part of that Range. There the water mixes up with salt and then it passes through the lower lands, and it is on that account that saltpetre is increasing day by day. I do not think this motion is meant to censure Government, and I do not think the Honourable the Mover also has any intention to move this motion with that object.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, on a point of order. Are cut motions moved without any idea of censuring Government? Is it parliamentary for the Honourable Member to get up and move a cut motion just for the fun of it and not to censure Government?

Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana: It is a motion to bring facts to the notice of the Government and the House and he has asked only for the appointment of a committee of enquiry.

Sir, as I have submitted, these springs which pass through the Salt Range bring saltish water and are increasing saltpetre day by day. I do not think the House would like to censure Government on this account.

[Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana.]

I should also like to bring to the notice of the House that Government were not sleeping over this matter. The Punjab Government in my time considered various schemes in this connection. One of the schemes, as far as Government were concerned, was completed. The idea was to tap the water from these springs, bring it down in pipes for the use of the different villages for drinking purposes and also save it from the effects of the salt. This process would certainly help in the reclamation of the lands too. However, I understand that full use of this scheme has not been made. The water has been brought down and collected in big tanks, but the villages have not yet taken for drinking purposes on account of financial difficulties. I may submit here that this tract suffers more from the shortage of drinking water than any other part of that country. Most of the villages have to depend on filthy tanks and sometimes they go without water altogether if monsoon is not sufficient, and, then, they have to bring water from long distances from the river. This scheme had to serve, a double purpose, i.e., that the spring would not affect adversely the tract in question, while sweet water could be brought for drinking purposes for the different villages in the Thal. Another scheme which was considered, and I had great hopes that it would be completed, was to bring down water for the Pind Dadan Khan town. That town suffered immensely on account of practically no water-supply. Government seemed inclined then to sanction it for the Pind Dadan Khan town and also to save the eastern tract of that tahsil from its bad effect. I am sorry to say that it has not yet been completed for reasons not known to me. The third scheme which the Punjab Government in my time considered was to open a new canal from the Jhelum river to irrigate this tract and naturally this would have reclaimed the saltpetre tract; but the Irrigation Report did not support it for insufficient returns. Though I am not prepared to support a censure motion but I fully agree with the Honourable the Mover that something should be done for this tract. It is a very unfortunate tract on account of nature's unkindness, but there may be some scheme to disallow springs bringing down saltish water. If some action in this connection is successful, this poor tract may prosper again.

Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad Mehr Shah (North Punjab: Muhammadan). Sir^r, I am glad that instead of speaking in a foreign tongue, I rise to speak in my own language, and in this respect at least I happen to be even more Swadeshi-minded than my Congress brethren. The motion put before you by my Honourable friend, Mr. Piracha, relates to that part of the Punjab to which I myself belong, and I have personal knowledge of the distress and difficulties of the people concerned. I, therefore, consider it my duty to bring to the notice of the Honourable Members and the Government the grievances of those poor zamindars who have lost their fields, their landed property and even the houses in which they lived, as a result of the operations of the Salt Range generally and of the Khewra Mines particularly. The people of the locality are extremely peace-loving and loyal. It is for this reason that up to this day they never made any agitation, but have rather been passing their time in the hope that Government might one day turn their attention to their distress.

The locality, Sir, is one where, not long ago, there were green fields all over, and gardens yielded every kind of fruit. But if you looked at it now, you would find it all barren, not even a blade of grass would be

seen growing. The water is so bitter as to be undrinkable today as bitter as poison. It is not even fit to drink. It is no exaggeration to say that for the last of the year women bring water from as far as 10 miles from the river Jhelum. The chief town of the district, Dada Khan which is only four miles from the Khewra Mines, has today in ruins and its population of 20,000 has been reduced down to only 8,000 people. The income earned by Government from the Khewra Mines stands approximately at half a crore of rupees annually. While Government are gaining so much from the Salt Range, is it not their duty to spend a few lakhs on some useful scheme which would keep these people alive and save them from the present process of destruction?

Sir, if Government really have sympathy for the zamindars, then surely measures can be found for these poor people to prosper. My Honourable friend in the Council of State, Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, when in the Assembly, had invited the attention of the Government to this important matter, but I notice that nothing practically has since been done by Government. I would, therefore, request the Government immediately to appoint a committee from amongst the elected Members of the Central Legislature with an officer or two from the Punjab Government and the Honourable the Finance Member as its President to go into the matter. The Honourable the Finance Member, by making a provision of a crore of rupees for rural re-construction, has given proof of the fact that he has every sympathy for the rural population, and I trust he would accept my suggestion. Should Government agree to appoint a committee, I would advise my Honourable friend, Mr. Piracha, to withdraw his motion and would request Honourable Members to let him do so. Else, all Honourable Members, I believe, would support his motion.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: Sir, coming as I do from the Jhelum district where these mines are situated I know fully what damage is being done to the cultivators' land near this Salt Range. The details of this question have been discussed fully and my friend, Mr. Joshi, is keen to move his cut motion. I know what the Government's difficulty is in meeting these demands of these people from the Salt Range, but if the suggestions were invited, I would venture to make a suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Member, that directly this Assembly Session is finished he should go himself and see the Salt Range with his own eyes: I cannot draw a picture of the desert before this House, but it is much better for him to see the land himself and then consult the Local Government. I have got another concrete suggestion for the Honourable the Finance Member. That after consulting the Local Government he should set aside three pies per maund of salt exported from the Jhelum district, this will give us roughly Rs 40,000 and this sum should be put annually at the disposal of the district board who could spend this money in making roads and spreading education among the people of the Salt Range. (Interruption) Land is a very extensive question, and, as my Honourable friend, Nawab Mehr Shah, has suggested, a committee should be appointed to go into the matter. The question under discussion can be easily settled if the Honourable the Finance Member, after consulting with the Local Government, simply sets aside three pies per maund on the salt which is exported from the Jhelum district, and this sum could be utilised by the district board for the benefit of those cultivators who have suffered by the Khewra Mines.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, it is really very refreshing that when once in a blue moon a cut is given by a Nominated Member or a quasi-Nominated Member

An Honourable Member: He is an elected Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: . . . or even by an elected Member, a habitual supporter of the Government, we find that their head pulls one way while their loyalty to Government pulls them the other way. They cannot have the courage to tell the Government what the facts are or what remedy they suggest in order to remove the grievances.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

They have the courage to speak out their minds about the grievances of the people, but when they come to suggest remedies, they come down from their high pedestal, which a cut motion involves, to the making of requests to the Government to do this and to do that. I do not propose to look at this question from that point of view. I quite admit, Sir, that my friend, Mr. Alla Baksh Khan Tiwana, has been in that Range as a sub-divisional officer, and that the direct first hand knowledge he possesses about the conditions prevailing there far surpasses the knowledge that I may claim to possess, but, all the same, I have not been able to understand what he meant when he said that though several schemes were prepared to remove the grievances, none of these schemes materialised and the grievances have remained as before. I understand, Sir, that this question was first raised in this House in 1927, again it was agitated in 1930. At that time assurances were given by the Government that the question would be sympathetically considered. But what do we find after eight years? Not a committee has been appointed, nor any inquiry made into the grievances, and the grievances have remained the same as before. As far as I could gather, the people of that place have two grievances, one is that saltish water of Khewra Mines is pumped out and thrown out indiscriminately, with the result that it spreads upon the culturable lands and makes those lands unculturable. The second is that the refuse of salt is taken out of the mines and thrown on the sides of the hillocks there, with the result that, when the monsoon breaks out, the rain water spreads over this saltish refuse and works havoc on the culturable lands of the neighbouring fields. These are the two simple complaints which the Department could easily remedy if they only looked into the matter sympathetically. I do not deny the utility or the benefit the Salt Range confers upon the Punjab as a whole, and on that district in particular, but my complaint is that even in working a good department the public servants work in such a manner as to cause the greatest inconvenience to the persons living there. There can be no doubt that the town of Pind Dadan Khan was a great centre of trade, and it was a thickly populated town with many industries flourishing in it, but today that town is in ruins. This fact has been admitted by the various speakers who have half-heartedly supported this motion. Why then steps are not taken to remedy these grievances?

Lastly, Sir, I should like to say that the area affected by the careless administration of the Khewra Mines is within my constituency, and I consider it my duty to bring the grievances of my Muslim countrymen to

the notice of the authorities. Sir, the fact that the sufferers are my Muslim brethren does not affect me the least. My duty towards them is, on that account, not the less, if not greater, than if the sufferers had been my co-religionists. I hope the House will not look upon this question, though it affects a very small area, from a narrow point of view, as, to my very great regret, was done by some of the Honourable Members of the House, the other day, when they walked with the Government into their lobby, probably against their better judgment, because the Deputy Leader of my Party referred to the grievances in connection with the Communal Award in his speech on a cut the other day. Sir, I carefully read the statement issued by some of these gentlemen justifying their conduct on that occasion. I must say, they are the masters of their own actions, Sir, and these Honourable Members are at full liberty to act in a manner best suited to their interests, but I beg of them to concede the same liberty to our Party. Sir, I wish, with your permission, to conclude by saying that our duty towards our countrymen should transcend. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member discussing the motion before the House?

Sardar Sant Singh: Yes, Sir, I am supporting it. I am adding salt to the salt motion.

Our duty towards our countrymen should transcend our personal vanities, likes or dislikes. In the performance of that duty alone, we can succeed in raising the morale of the public outside this House. Sir, the grievance is a grievance, whether the persons affected happen to be Hindus, Muslims, Anglo-Indians or even the Sikhs. We are here to work for all and to serve all. Sir, I support the motion.

Several Honourable Members: Sir, the question may now be put.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars : Land-holders): Sir, I think, as a representative of the zamindars, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not support this Resolution, after hearing the elected Members as well as the Nominated Member from that part of the country. All the motion asks for is a Committee. Now, it has been clearly proved to the satisfaction of this House that these mines have damaged the fertile lands of the people inhabiting the neighbouring areas, and they cannot get even drinking water, so much so that most people are leaving the village, which was at one time a great trading centre, as was pointed out by the last speaker, and the population which was at one time about 30,000 has dwindled down to 3,000. That is an admitted fact. Even the Government Benches cannot deny that fact

Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz (Punjab: Nominated Official): The decline in the population of Pind Dadan Khan has nothing to do with the question.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: I am sorry for my friend the Commissioner. When the people cannot bear the sufferings, they naturally leave the place. Why do they leave their villages? Because of their sufferings.

Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz: Trade diversion.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: I heard the speech of the official or Nominated Member, who by his halting admissions supported the statements of the elected Members. It has been admitted by the Nominated Member that the evil is there, and these mines are the contributory cause of that evil. Therefore, from what has been said so far by Honourable Members, I think a case has been made out for the appointment of a Committee to go into the whole question, in response to the demands made by the most loyal zamindars of the Punjab, who have been supporting the Government both inside and outside this House. (Hear, hear.) And I trust all sections of this House will support this small motion to show that they are always ready to support any reasonable demands.

Mr. A. J. Raisman (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, there are many curious reasons for which Honourable Members of this House think that Government deserves to be censured, but this is the first occasion on which the natural configuration of India has served as a whipping block for Government. The mountains which are known as the Salt Range have been in existence in the Punjab for a considerable time, and it has also, as far as I am aware, been the habit of the climate for rain to descend periodically and for that water to dissolve a certain amount of salt which exists in the soil and carry it down to the fields below. About twenty-five years or more ago the effect of this salinification of the soil became more marked, but nobody has yet discovered why or how it works or what exactly is the cause. But there is one thing which I can assure this House, and that is, that my Honourable friend, Mr. Sant Singh's statement that there were two simple reasons for all that has happened and that they are both connected with the Khewra mines, is based on a theory which is certainly untrue. The amount of water which actually passes over the Khewra mine is an infinitesimal fraction of the salt water which damages the lands in question. And as for the dumps, they are an even more infinitesimal fraction of the salt over which the water passes and carries brine into the agricultural lands. Several Honourable Members have alluded to the fact that this question was previously discussed in this House and that undertakings were given by Government. I do not deny that for a moment; on the contrary, I shall be very glad to draw the attention of these Honourable Members to the history of this case which is associated with the activities, the perfectly legitimate desire of Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, to bring this matter to the notice of Government. In 1927, that Honourable gentleman, who is now a Member of the Council of State, was a Member of this House and he represented two matters connected with the Khewra mines to Government. One was the grievances of the miners employed in the mines and the other was the question of damage done to agricultural lands. Government proceeded to appoint a committee—and there is a moral to this, because more than once has a committee or conference been held on this particular subject. The Government proceeded to appoint a committee which included, I may say, not merely the Honourable gentleman who had raised the question, but also several officials who had considerable local knowledge. They went into the matters which had been raised with considerable care, and at lunch time today, which was the first occasion on which I became acquainted with this particular subject, I read, amongst other things, the results of the discussion of that conference. In

a note consisting of some 14 paragraphs, the one which deals with agricultural land and the damage caused by salt, says, this subject was mentioned but was not pressed. I leave it to the House to judge as to the extent to which it was then felt to be an urgent public grievance. In 1930 the same gentleman moved a cut motion at the time of the budget, and this time he drew the attention of the Government solely to this particular question. On this the Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, gave an undertaking to look into the matter and to have a conference to discuss what could be done. As a result of that, the Government of India took steps to consult the Government of the Punjab and to endeavour to arrange for a discussion amongst officers who had local experience and were able to speak on this question. It was naturally desired that Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan should be present at that conference in order to press the point of view which he had put forward. There was some difficulty in getting that conference together, but the last thing that happened, I may say, was this. The Commissioner for the Division in which the Jhelum District is situated was then Mr. F. L. Brayne, and he was, unfortunately, unable to come to this meeting because he had other more urgent work. Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, on being informed that Mr. Brayne was not able to attend this meeting, for some reason, chose to drop the whole matter. The Government of the Punjab had nominated and were prepared to send other officers who also had considerable familiarity with the question, but the Honourable Member who had moved the cut motion at the time of the budget was not, I suggest, sufficiently interested in this matter to carry on the proceedings, because a particular officer could not be present although officers who, in the opinion of the Government of the Punjab, were fully capable to discuss the matter, were available and could be sent. That, Sir, happened in 1930. I have no doubt that the Honourable gentleman who was at the back of this movement had very important pre-occupations between 1930 and the present time, but the fact remains that it was not until a few days ago that this subject was again raised or brought to the notice of the Government in any way. I do not suggest that, because this is the history of the matter nothing should be done. Far from it. I am only concerned to indicate that if this question has been previously brought before the Government and if it has not been proceeded with or has not led to any result, that is not primarily the fault of the Government.

Coming to the merits of the subject, we have, again, in connection with the last occasion, a few days ago, on which the matter
 5 P.M. was brought to our notice,—we have communicated with the Punjab Government. It is quite clear that, unless the damage done to these lands is a result of any carelessness or anything connected with the actual working of the Khewra mines, it is not primarily a matter for the Central Government. The fact that owing to any natural causes the local agricultural land is undergoing a process of deterioration is not a matter which directly concerns the Central Government, and although the subject has not been fully investigated, we strongly incline to the opinion that the damage, if any, contributed by the Khewra mine itself is only a very small fraction of the whole damage.

Now, what the Government of the Punjab proposes to do is to have an expert investigation of the matter and I suggest, that until an expert investigation has been made it is quite useless, with all respect to Honourable Members of this House, for a number of Honourable Members to

[Mr. A. J. Raisman.]

come together and talk about Pind Dadan Khan or the Jhelum district or the Khewra mine. The question will remain at the end 'what are you going to do about it', and if you do not actually know what is happening, it seems to me it is going to be extremely difficult to decide what you are going to do about it. It has been suggested, and I am afraid that here my Honourable friend, Captain Sher Muhammad Khan, showed what I might call the cloven hoof, that a certain amount of money should be paid to somebody. I am not quite clear how that is going to solve the problem or exactly how that comes into the picture. It is said that the Central Government makes a large amount of money out of the salt mines in the Jhelum district. Well, the Central Government can obtain salt from other sources and the money which the Central Government obtains has nothing to do with the Jhelum district. It is obtained from the consumers of salt by way of duty. There is no profit to Government in the manufacture of salt. As members of the Standing Finance Committee know, the salt is sold at a price which is only intended to recover the average cost of production, so that we cannot admit that the Jhelum district has a particular claim to receive alms from the Central Government because a certain amount of duty is levied on the salt mines there. Now, the suggestion was made that so many pies per maund—three pies per maund I think it was—

An Honourable Member: Only three pies!

Mr. A. J. Raisman should be handed over to the Jhelum District Board. By the way, I am not aware that the Jhelum District Board is the owner of all this agricultural land which has been damaged. However, the Jhelum District Board will be in the position of *tertius gaudens* as far as I can see. The Central Government would hand over some money, the local zamindars would sit on their damaged land and the Jhelum District Board would show a very handsome surplus! I must say that that kind of financial arrangement does not seem to carry any particular equity with it, nor do I see how the Jhelum District Board, having got its three pies, would proceed to rehabilitate the land or to stop the rain from falling on the Salt Range, dissolving the salt and continuing to run down to the lands below. Sir, I do not wish to suggest that we are unsympathetic to what has been happening in Pind Dadan Khan: I feel that it is within local knowledge—I am myself not a local expert—that the decadence of that historic village is not attributable entirely to the droppings of the Salt Range. I believe that owing to the construction of the railway line which now passes in that locality, trade was diverted and Pind Dadan Khan like many other places has found itself high and dry and left aside by the main stream of trade. One has, I believe, only to look at Pind Dadan Khan to see that that is what is happening. It is not merely the outcroppings of salt or the salt of the brine carried down from the hills that has killed Pind Dadan Khan. I was saying we are not unsympathetic. It will naturally be said "what do Government propose to do"? Well, Sir, we have addressed the Punjab Government again in this matter, and I trust, that the Honourable gentleman who has seized this occasion to bring it forward will not, in a few weeks' time, forget all about it and then say that Government have done nothing. We have asked the Punjab Government and the Punjab Government have said that they are now investigating the desirability of putting an expert on special duty to ascertain the cause of

salinification. I suggest that when the report of that expert has been received then will be the time for my Honourable friend to meet with Members of the Government of India and to consider the facts as reported and to make suggestions. Might I, in this connection, point out, while I am on this subject, that the existence of Khewra Mines in the Jhelum district cannot be regarded as an unmixed calamity for that district. I would point out that we employ a few thousand miners there and that the income which goes into that district by way of wages and so on is probably considerably higher than the incomes which accrue in any comparable area in the neighbouring district. However, that is by the way. I merely wished to indicate the other side of the picture. With all sympathy for the grievances of the zamindars, I suggest that until we have collected facts which will enable us to approach this in a practical manner it would not be suitable to have a committee and discuss the thing in the kind of debating society way in which it would naturally be discussed. For these reasons, I trust that the Honourable Member who has moved this motion will realise that Government are prepared to take up the matter in any way which is likely to lead to a useful result and will not press his motion.

Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: I am very thankful to the Honourable Members who have supported this motion, especially Nawab Allah Bakhsh Khan, who, in a very clear way, explained the state of affairs in and about Khewra and pointed out that on account of the water mixed with salt coming out of the springs in the Salt Range, the lands in the neighbourhood are damaged. This shows that some action or other must be taken by the Government to save the poor people of that locality. Mr. Raisman has narrated the history of this case from the last 25 years. I am sorry he has not been able to show what practical steps the Government took in meeting the grievances of the people of that locality. What was the result of those inquiries? He has simply stated that he has got a note of 14 paragraphs and has not given us the substance of it. And what was the result of the inquiries and what action did the Government take? In my opinion, the Government Member has not satisfied me or any other Member of this House either. I am not, therefore, prepared to withdraw my motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion stands in the name of Mr. Joshi, but the Chair does not think there is sufficient time to take up this motion. Before the House is adjourned, the Chair wishes to ask the Honourable Members that, as regards the proposal that the 15th should be a holiday and that the 18th should be a working day of the Assembly, the Chair should get information as to what is the decision arrived at by the different Groups concerned by noon on Monday next; otherwise it will be difficult for the office to arrange the order papers, etc.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 11th March, 1935.

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